FIND YOUR DREAM HOME IN JUST THE RIGHT PLACE

A Special Report by Star Metro Media

metro

NEW HOMES
Calgary and area

Cornerstone: The new face of Calgary's Northeast. Five modern neighbourhoods in one vibrant community. CONTRIBUTED

THE NEW FACE OF CALGARY'S NORTHEAST

Calgary's northeast is attracting interest from homebuyers — and for good reason.

The area provides a special combination of the outdoors, spacious homes and accessibility to the city, according to Kendra Milne, vice president of marketing at Walton Development and Management, the developer of a new master-planned community called Cornerstone, located in Calgary's northeast.

"We've seen an uptick in visitors to the Cornerstone showhomes over the past couple of weeks, and our homebuilder sales staff are reporting strong and positive conversations with interested buyers," says Milne.

Interest in Cornerstone has been surging since its successful launch in late-2016. Now the development has approximately 200 homes under construction or scheduled to start this month, and more than 350 lots are still available for purchase.

There are still a good number of prime lots available for buyers in the Stage 1 of Cornerstone. Homes are available in each of the five available product types, and start in the $330,000s.

"We have a wide range of homes available for people with many different lifestyles," says Milne. "It's a diverse community."

CONTRIBUTED

The home options at Cornerstone were designed to welcome people from all different backgrounds with diverse housing needs, including duplex, zero-lot line, courtyard, street oriented townhomes and traditional front-drive, built by five established builders.

The first stage of Cornerstone is a neighbourhood named Gate, which will be the central community hub that includes future commercial, retail, employment and public transit opportunities, including a proposed future LRT station.

If you're looking for green space, you'll find it right within Cornerstone in more than 95 acres of dedicated parks and 14 km of regional pathways that wind throughout the neighbourhood.

The community will also preserve 180 acres of environmentally significant natural wetlands within its borders, to become part of a new regional park for northeast Calgary.

Cornerstone will be working with both the City of Calgary and the Parks Foundation to bring potential amenities to this open space, sports fields, playgrounds and off-leash dog parks.

At the same time, Cornerstone is located close to Stoney Trail, Country Hills Blvd., and Deerfoot Trail. Cornerstone residents can easily access a wide array of amenities, including more than 10 schools, Calgary Northeast Sports Facility, Max Bell Arena, the Calgary airport, Sunridge Mall, Peter Lougheed Hospital, and the highly-anticipated redevelopment of Deerfoot City.

"Everything you need will either be within the community, or a quick car trip nearby," says Milne. "Cornerstone will be a vital part of the city's DNA."

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Cove Properties, the winner of Best Multi-Family Community — The Armory, Currie. CONTRIBUTED

Brookfield Residential — winner of Best New Home $425,000 - $484,999. CONTRIBUTED

Brookfield shines in SAM Awards

BUILDING SINCE THE 1950S

Company takes home the top award, Builder of the Year

Kathy McCormick

Brookfield Residential came out on top receiving five awards at the prestigious BILD Calgary Region 2016 SAM Awards Gala.

The company was named Builder of the Year during the gala held on April 8 at the Telus Convention Centre.

What begun in Calgary in the late 1950s as Carma Developers, Brookfield Residential now includes both a single-family and a multi-family division, as well as residential land development.

It took four other awards on its way to the top: Best New Home – $425,000-$484,999 (not including lot); Best Villa/Duplex – up to $374,999; Best New Design – Apartment Style Condo-700 sq. ft. to 899 sq. ft.; and Best Website for Albi Luxury by Brookfield Residential.

"It's been a challenging, but very successful and satisfying year," says Trent Edwards, chief operating officer, Alberta, for Brookfield, thanking his team and partners.

Finalists, in order of placement, for Builder of the Year were Jayman BUILT, Homes by Avi (Canada) Inc. and Stepper Homes Ltd.

Four other Grand SAM winners were also awarded: Hopewell Residential Management LP – Multi-Family Builder of the Year; Riverview Custom Homes -Builder of Merit (awarded to a small-volume builder); Renova Luxury Renovations Ltd. – Renovator of the Year; and Timber Tech Truss Inc. – Partner of the Year, which is determined through a survey of builder members.

The SAM Awards, now in its 30th year, celebrate the residential construction industry's efforts last year — a year where housing starts were down dramatically due to the energy sector. Despite an ailing economy, builders and developers constructed innovative, quality homes and neighbourhoods in and around Calgary, said BILD Calgary Region CEO Guy Huntingford.

Sixty industry awards were handed out honouring the best the industry had to offer last year, whittled down from close to 800 entries and 78 finalists in categories ranging from new homes and condominiums, to marketing campaigns, show home parades, advertising, sales professionals, renovations, new communities, and more.

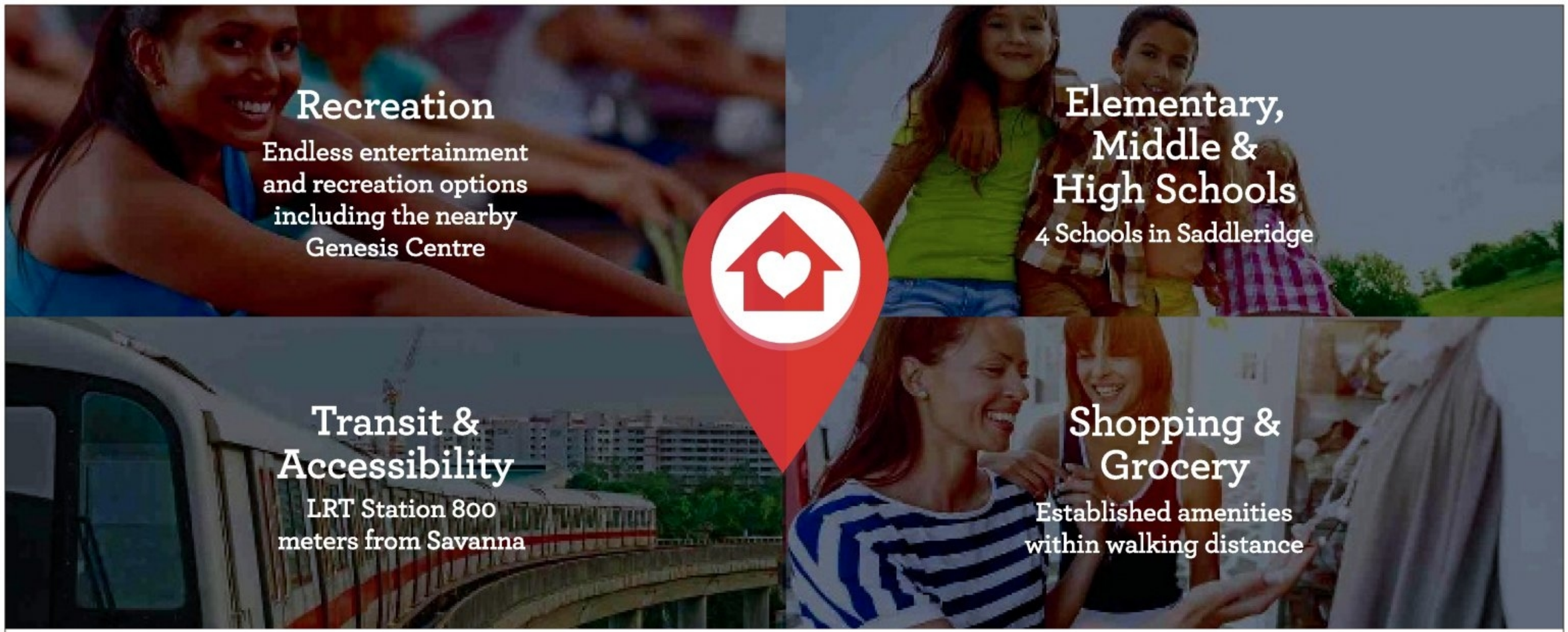
"The awards have the ability to bring the industry together as a community," Huntingford says. "This event is an exciting occasion annually and recognizes the best in a hugely competitive industry where quality, design and innovation prevail in every way."

More than 1,000 people attended the gala to honour the winners.

Winners are chosen through a detailed and rigorous process with industry judges awarding points. The process is then authenticated by an accounting firm.

A full list of winners and a breakdown of all the categories can be found on the BILD Calgary Region website — bildcr.com.

BILD Calgary Region is the advocacy association representing the building industry in and around Calgary. It was formed last year through an amalgamation of the Canadian Home Builders' Association – Calgary Region and the Urban Development Institute – Calgary. This is the first SAM Awards for the newly-formed organization.



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Kathy McCormick

The Roma show home is designed with comfort and practical living in mind. PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Just the name conjures up visions of a peaceful, tranquil and relaxed life — and that's exactly what Avalon Master Builder imagined when it built its first Zen condominium complex.

And buyers are loving it, as evidenced by the demand for the many Zen developments in and around Calgary over the years. It's a winning formula that, in the end, lives up to its name.

Zen in Ravenswood in Airdrie is a perfect example of just the right ingredients to help make life simple, happy and comfortable — at the right price.

Less than two dozen units out of 119 are still up for sale in the complex that includes townhouses, garden suites and stacked townhomes of one- to three-bedrooms, with or without garages.

And prices start at $259,900 (with GST) and go up to $328,000. Prices rise with extras that personalize homes and bring more Zen to homeowners' lifestyle. But at that starting price, buyers can afford to add on.

One of the show homes, for example, has the basement developed to further expand the living space — at a cost of approximately $23,000.

The Roma is $279,900 (with GST) before the upgrades. At 1,126 square feet, with an additional 381 square feet in the developed basement, the show home is designed with comfort and practical living in mind.

The small foyer opens to the living room, with a partial wall separating the spaces. The stairs to the lower level are on the left, and a short hall leads to the half bath with a pocket door on the right, flanked by two closets.

At the rear of the home, the kitchen is spacious and inviting with patio doors leading to a small yard out back where you can enjoy the outdoors and put your green thumb to work with planters and pots of flowers or vegetables. A window over the kitchen sink adds to the bright appeal to a room where a lot of the family life takes place.

In a U-shape, the cupboards include a corner pantry closet; a large rectangular island is as an available option to further optimize the space. Quartz countertops of swirls of grey and tan complement the brown-stained flat cupboards. Upgraded stainless steel appliances include an over-the-stove microwave and hood fan.

The stairs to the upper floor open to the kitchen area. Upstairs, the two bedrooms are both spacious and inviting, situated on each end of the home with a full bath between the two. A door leads to the bathroom from one of the bedrooms, accessed through a walk-through closet with room on each side for two individual wardrobes.

The second bedroom is set up in the show home as a family room with space for a good-sized couch and large TV. Ample, large windows keep both rooms bright and inviting.

The lower level has a large rumpus room, bedroom, full bathroom and storage, as well as a washer and dryer.

Outdoors, the homes have their own identity, even though they are connected. Differing roof peaks, trim accents and colours set them apart, yet they are cohesive and provide an interesting and welcoming streetscape. Exteriors feature Hardie Board siding and landscaping with water conservation in mind.

BACKGROUND

Builder: Avalon Master Builder
Development: Zen in Ravenswood in Airdrie
Prices: From $259,900 to $328,900 (with GST)
Model: The Roma, 1,126-square feet, with an additional 381 square feet in the optional basement development
Directions: Take QE11 north of Calgary to Airdrie. Take the first exit (Yankee Valley Boulevard) and turn east. Follow all the way to Ravenswood View and you'll see the Zen project on the corner.
Hours: Open from 2-8 p.m. Monday to Thursday and noon to 5 p.m., weekends and holidays.

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Rural hamlet draws in city folk

LANGDON

Booming prairie town features large lots, pathway system, shops

Karen Durrie

> **It's such an easy-going and walkable community**
> Coun. Rolly Ashdown

Despite recent growth and development, Langdon has maintained its small-town image with its 1900s-themed Main Street. CONTRIBUTED

Once a sleepy hamlet marked by acreages and stretches of rolling prairie under the Alberta blue sky, Langdon has grown exponentially in the last decade as new home construction has brought in residents looking for an alternative to city living.

"It's grown from about 200 people in the mid-'90s to 5,000. There didn't used to be anything here, now there is a grocery store, a few liquor stores, a couple gas stations," says Rolly Ashdown, Rocky View County councillor for Southeast Rocky View County, Langdon and Indus.

Ashdown has lived in Langdon since 2003, moving from Calgary. He now lives in the new development of Boulder Creek, where most homes have large lots and triple garages.

The amount of land and house you can get in Langdon, compared to what's standard in the city, is a big drawing feature for the area.

Langdon is located about 35 minutes west of Calgary via Glenmore Trail, and has maintained its typical small-town Alberta flavour, with its 1900s-themed Main Street featuring jaunty clapboard storefronts.

With growth, new shops and services have cropped up, including restaurants, a dentist, chiropractor, medical clinic and grocery store, along with Grades K-5 and junior high schools. A combination high school and rec centre is scheduled to be built within the next few years.

Lynn Desilets, area sales manager for Stepper Homes in Boulder Creek Estates, a community by developer Highfield Land Management, says Langdon has seen excellent buyer response.

"The value is tremendous. You can't get this size of lot in the city. They are 40 per cent larger, and access is so good out here that people are realizing you leave from here, you are 20 minutes to Chinook Centre, 20 minutes to the South Calgary Health Campus and 20 minutes to the airport on Stoney Trail. Chestermere is only 10 minutes west of us, too."

The lots at Boulder Creek are about 62 feet wide by 132 feet deep, and standard models have triple garages — people like their outdoor toys in Langdon, such as snowmobiles, motorcycles and boats, Desilets says.

Stepper models start at about 2,200 square feet and go up to 3,000. Lots range from $170,000 to $230,000, for a walkout backing onto the 18-hole Boulder Creek Golf Course.

The neighbourhood seems to have wide demographic appeal, Desilets says.

"We have a mix of young families, probably about 50 per cent are young families, and then a high balance of empty-nesters. We build a lot of bungalows out here. It's such an easygoing and walkable community."

The Langdon pathway system links communities and features many playgrounds throughout.

Another new community development in Langdon will include Painted Sky by Qualico, whose neighbourhood plan application is currently under review by Rocky View County.

The county's low property tax rate and diverse tax base is another selling feature of Langdon, Ashdown says.

"Langdon can use all the advantages of Rocky View County, which includes CN, Cross Iron Mills and all the industrial. Over half the tax is now paid by commercial rather than residential, and that makes for a nice healthy economy."

Ashdown says Langdon has a strong community spirit, and that numerous hardworking volunteer groups make the community what it is. He points to a combined volunteer effort to build a quad baseball diamond park in the area.

The slower pace of living in Langdon is a big appeal, Ashdown says. Many people work in the city and enjoy returning at day's end to the rural hamlet.

"There are less people per acre, bigger lots, it's quieter, and you go into the city with the morning sun behind you, and on the way back, the sun's behind you again. I like that."

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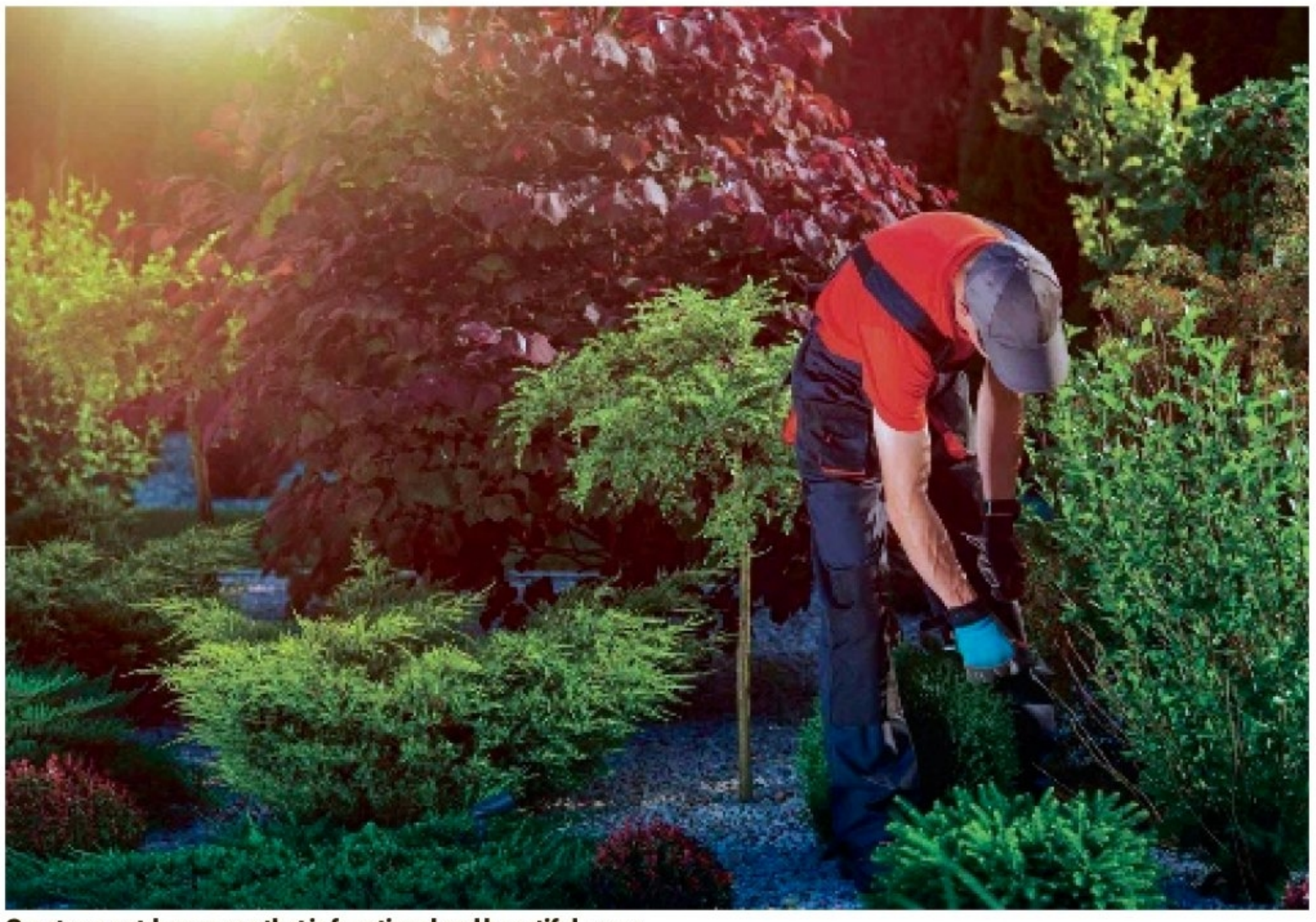
Karen Durrie



Create an outdoor space that is functional and beautiful. ISTOCK

The yard of a brand-new home is like a blank canvas, just waiting to be filled in with the green of a lawn, the lines of trees and flourishes of flowers.

After selecting all the interior and exterior finishes and features on a new home, figuring out the outdoor living space can be overwhelming, and many a new homeowner has lived with little more than new sod for a time before tackling landscaping.

Unless you're a talented visionary who's handy with a hoe, hiring professional landscapers can help take the guesswork out of what to do with your yard.

Homescapes specializes in complete residential landscaping on newly built homes and renovations in Calgary.

Landscape designer Erin Friesen works with clients on creating outdoor spaces that are functional and beautiful, and ultimately best suited for each particular homeowner's wants and needs.

"When you move in and there's nothing but loam, it can be a little scary for people sometimes. There's no fence on the property lines and no trees to help you see the big picture," Friesen says.

She starts by asking homeowners a series of questions prior to designing — what will the function of the space be? What will they do in it? Do they need it to be pet or small-child friendly? Will they want a dining and lounging area?

Friesen discusses whether homeowners want options such as tree placements and screens to build a measure of privacy into their yards.

Creating a landscape design is similar to working off a blueprint for a custom home. You pick each product, and pinpoint exactly where it is going.

"You need to know how big trees will get, where the fire pits go in relation to the overhang of the house. There can be a lot of labour and product costs if you don't plan it right from the get-go," Friesen says.

Even if you don't implement the whole design right away, having a big picture of how it will eventually be staged is the best way to go. You can start with the big-ticket items such as patios and a few trees, then later on add shrubs and perennials, Friesen says.

For people wanting lower-maintenance gardens or with small spaces, Friesen will recommend xeriscaping, a landscaping technique using rock features and drought-resistant native plants that thrive in our growing zone, and a minimum of turf grass that needs watering and mowing.

People love flowers, too, Friesen says, but should be prepared for the work of spring and fall cleanup, dividing and deadheading.

Perennial shrubs, on the other hand, are less time-consuming, establish well, don't need a lot of water, can provide interest in a variety of heights and come in flowering varieties. She also makes extensive use of interesting grasses.

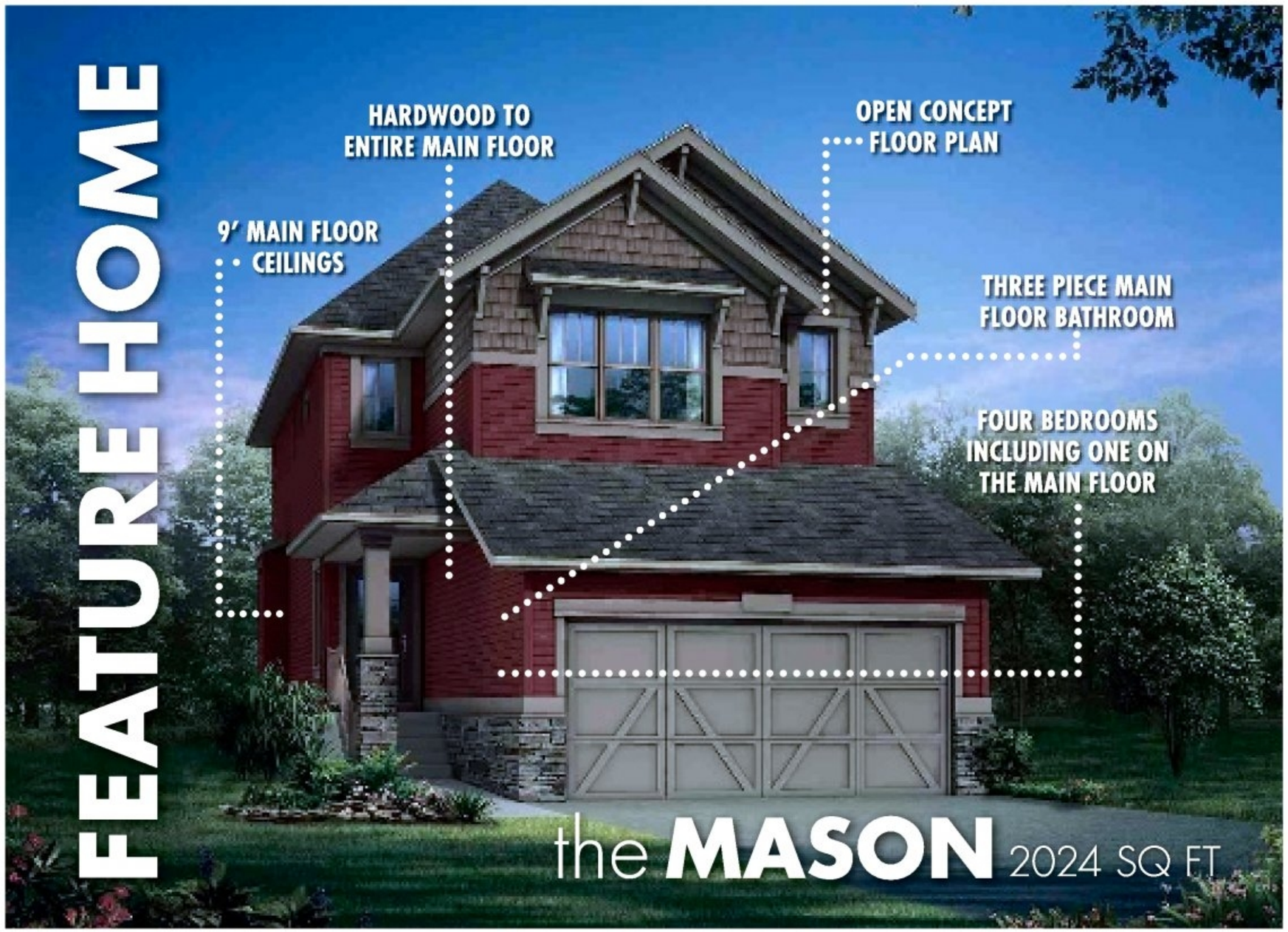
> **"There can be a lot of labour and product costs if you don't plan it right.**
> Erin Friesen

"I love grasses. Karl Foerster (feather reed grass), overdam reed grass, and blue oat grass are ones I really like. They're different colours, heights and shapes, and you basically give them a haircut once a year," she says.

Plants, Friesen adds, are the final step in the design process. She first looks at a neighbourhood's aesthetics, discusses the client's wish list, does rough sketches of arbours, fencing, decks and pergolas, and the plants come at the end, "like the icing on top that dresses the hard products in the space. "

Friesen recommends clients spend time on Pinterest or Houzz.com to collect samples of favourite yards and gardens prior to a first meeting. After the first meeting, a full design is generated and presented.

Clients can expect to spend about $1,000 on a simple landscape design for an average-sized home, and the price tag rises from there. Implementing the design varies in cost, depending on scale, but Friesen says a loose guide for good landscaping should reflect five to 10 per cent of the value of a home.



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High 7°C/Low 1°C Scattered showers

Johnny Gaudreau skates to the bench during a practice in Calgary on Monday.
JEFF MCINTOSH/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

School board faces $38-million deficit

EDUCATION

Chair said they had tried to appeal for new funding model

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

Service cuts could be coming as the city's public school board projects a nearly $40-million deficit.

According to the Calgary Board of Education's (CBE) Budget Assumptions report presented at Tuesday's meeting, they're anticipating a $38.6-million deficit for the 2017-18 school year.

The report states the CBE will see costs increase "for the operation of four new schools, grid movement in accordance with collective agreements, as well as inflation and escalating costs of contractual obligations."

They said to maintain current service levels across the CBE in 2017-18 the board would require a 4.8 per cent rate increase in base instruction funding.

"With enrolment-only funding there will be a decrease in service levels across the system to balance the budget for 2017-18," the documents read.

Joy Bowen-Eyre, chair of the board, said they tried to "proactively advocate" to the provincial government to change their funding model to avoid this situation, but now that it's arisen they've chosen to "support staff not stuff, because we know the biggest impact on a student is quality teachers and staff that can support them."

> **This year it's all coming home to roost.**
> Lisa Davis

Lisa Davis, founder of Kids Come First, said this is a "double whammy" and that the blame is on both Alberta Education and the CBE. She said she hopes there's less finger pointing and more focus on finding solutions.

"There is no increase in the funding rate, combined with the CBE's historically high overhead and school supports, which takes money out of the classroom," she said. "This year it's all coming home to roost, and we're very concerned of the impact this is going to have on students and teachers in the classrooms."

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plus **Naheed Nenshi wary of another wager** metroNEWS

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Internal police complaints attributed to transparency

STANDARDS

Expert says push for accountability sparks change

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

The Calgary police service says an increase in internal Professional Standards Section (PSS) complaints can be attributed to a call from the force's executive for increased transparency and accountability — and a Mount Royal University criminologist agrees.

According to Insp. Keith Cain, PSS complaints aren't to be confused with HR issues, but are actually matters that are either criminal in nature or fall under the Police Act. He said if something is criminal in nature police must wait until it's concluded in court before they can begin to investigate.

Cain said when Chief Roger Chaffin came into leadership he gave a "direct order" in respect to accountability and transparency.

> **The CPS is going through a change in culture.**
> Ritesh Narayan

"It became very clear from Chief Chaffin and the executive that he wanted all these matters brought forward," said Cain.

In 2013 CPS saw only 20 internal PSS complaints, but when Chaffin became the top cop there was a huge spike to 41 in 2015. There have already been 20 internal PSS complaints filed in 2017.

"It doesn't always happen immediately that you change culture, but supervisors and officers have to understand that there is support for them to come forward," said Cain. "Because if it's something they've noted about a peer or a subordinate it's not always easy to bring those things forward."

Mount Royal University justice professor and criminologist, Ritesh Narayan, said after a year of police involved shootings and general police misconduct brought forward in the public realm in 2016, the service has been trying to change policy and culture.

Narayan said this can be attributed to a need for more transparency and how internal complaints are handled.

"The CPS is going through a change in culture. There has been a very hegemonic masculinity culture in the CPS, where you keep things within the walls," he said. "But now with the new calls for transparency and the chief of police desperately trying to improve their image, which has created an environment where police officers are more comfortable talking about each other."

Cain said one huge challenge faced by PSS is closing cases in a timely matter. He said since 2013 they've seen an increased case load but no more manpower — but that's about to change, with one, possibly two new positions being added in the department this year.

A renewed call for transparency and accountability has more officers stepping up and reporting when they see something potentially off in the work of another officer, according to Calgary Police Service. METRO FILE

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Province stymies privacy inquiry

The Government of Alberta fully or partially redacted nearly 800 pages of content requested by the province's own privacy commissioner in an investigation into allegations of delays in interference the government's handling of freedom of information requests, according to reports tabled by commissioner Jill Clayton.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner presented the two reports in the Alberta legislature Tuesday, outlining some of their findings in a nearly three-year investigation into the delays in accessing Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (FOIP) requests for information.

According to the release, 466 of nearly 800 pages of requested Government of Alberta records were entirely blacked out. Further, all witnesses for the investigation were represented by a lawyer from Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, which the privacy commissioner's office said was "unprecedented in the history of the office's investigations."

The commissioner believes this may have prevented witnesses from providing candid information.

"I am deeply disappointed in how this matter has unfolded," said Clayton. "What should have been a relatively straightforward investigation has concluded under a shadow that brings the very notion of independent oversight into question."

Alberta Justice Department officials were not immediately available for comment. METRO

PUBLIC HEALTH

Measles exposure possible

A case of the measles has been confirmed in the Calgary Zone and there's a risk the public was exposed, according to Alberta Health Services (AHS).

The possible exposure happened at a Shoppers Drug Mart located at 8060 Silver Springs Blvd. NW in Calgary on Sunday, April 2 between 12 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. AHS is advising those born after 1970 who haven't had two doses of the measles vaccine or had the disease before to call 811.

If symptoms start to develop, AHS wants you to stay home and call 811 before visiting a doctor or health-care facility — measles can be easily spread through the air. METRO

NHL PLAYOFFS

No wagers yet for Nenshi

Naheed Nenshi hasn't bet on the first Flames playoff game — yet.

In 2015, the betting mayor was forced to sing "Let it Go" in a council meeting wearing a Ducks jersey after the Flames lost the playoff series 4-1.

So, naturally, Calgary's public is waiting on his next set of bets with bated breath.

"We've got to get on it, eh?" said Nenshi. highlighting the fact that he's high and dry for playoff bet plans.

"I'm kind of thinking that maybe I shouldn't make a bet because my record is not very strong, particularly when it comes to hockey." HELEN PIKE/METRO

The Eau Claire smokestack in Calgary will lose its designation as a municipal historic resource. METRO

When development trumps history

URBAN PLANNING

Eau Claire smokestack to lose protected heritage status

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Turns out heritage designations aren't forever.

The historically recognized smokestack in Eau Claire was built in the 1940s, marked the Calgary Transit garage and was the only remnant of development in the area at that time.

But it's another era for Eau Claire. A developer is eyeing a major transformation for the Eau Claire Market, which would integrate more than 1,000 homes, mixed office use, hotels and retail — but one thing didn't fit in with the plan — the smokestack. So, the developer wants to move it.

It's an odd bit of procedure that will see the smokestack "de-designated" as a municipal historic resource, moved to a city-owned site within three years at the developer's expense while they hand $300,000 to the city.

Metro tried to reach the developer and Coun. Druh Farrell, but neither was available by press time.

"It's really only being moved for the purpose of the developer feeling it's going to have an impact on them," said Josh Traptow, Executive Director of the Calgary Heritage Authority.

> **It really calls into question the usefulness of designation.**
> Josh Traptow, Calgary Heritage Authority

"We just fear that this could create a niche for developers to find sights that are on valuable pieces of land...buying that resource, coming to council to de-designate it, move it and using that density to move something."

Although he said the newly proposed location, only 15 metres away from its original spot, is better than what was on the books before, Traptow said he's disappointed the developers couldn't work the smokestack into the development.

Traptow said this is the first instance in Alberta where a city council will debate de-designation at the whim of a developer, noting that it might lead some to think 'what's the point' when it comes to historically designating properties in the first place.

"It really calls into question the usefulness of designation, if less than 10 years later you're asking for a repeal of it to make way for a development," he said.

HARVIE PASSAGE

Site work spawns concerns for fish

One Calgary city councillor is describing the scene at Harvie Passage as "nuts."

The work being done is hard to miss as crews rehabilitate the flood-washed river to create a safe passage for watercraft and fish. But observers whizzing by the site this week were able to see construction vehicles wade into the waterway, removing sediment from the Bow River.

Coun. Brian Pincott is worried the disruption of having heavy equipment digging around in the Bow's basin could affect fish habitats already affected by the 2013 floods.

"There's no degree of sensitivity whatsoever," he said. "All of the silt that they're driving up, that has such an impact downstream on the spawning grounds."

Pincott said the province's project has to follow provincial and federal guidelines. He wants the Alberta Environment Minister to look at the project and ensure they're meeting requirements.

"It would be shocking to me if that's allowed," said Pincott. "Certainly the city would never approach a project that way."

Trout Unlimited provincial biologist Lesley Peterson said this is the appropriate time to work in the river, according to the water act.

"It's certainly some very significant work going on right now, but those timing windows are meant to protect fish," she said. "Anytime you have some heavy equipment working in the river there's potential for impacts to the health of the river and water quality."

However, Peterson said she hasn't been watching the work at Harvie Passage closely enough to comment on it. HELEN PIKE/METRO

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Heffernan family sues Calgary police

LAWSUIT

Brother says accused would have to testify at trial

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

The family of a Calgary man shot and killed by police almost two years ago exactly has sued the Calgary Police Service — and they want to see it go to trial.

"It's not about the money at all. We're suing just for accountability," said Grant Heffernan, brother of the victim and one of the complainants.

Anthony Heffernan, 27, who was battling drug addiction, was shot four times — three to the head and neck — after police were called to the Super 8 motel on Barlow Trail on March 16, 2015, after reports of a customer who had failed to check out on time.

In late August of 2016, more than a year after Anthony's death, the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team's (ASIRT) executive director, Susan Hughson, announced that although they had found evidence to support pressing charges against the officer who killed Anthony, none would be laid because the Alberta Crown Prosecutor's service (ACPS) didn't think there was a high enough likelihood of conviction.

At that time, ASIRT said that when he was killed, Anthony had both hands in the air. They said he was also holding a lighter in one hand and a syringe with no needle in the other hand.

Anthony Heffernan was shot to death by a Calgary police officer in 2014 after failing to check out of his hotel room on time. He was holding a syringe with no needle, as well as a lighter when he was shot three times in the head. METRO FILE

In the statement of claim, filed March 29, 2017 — just days after the two-year anniversary of Anthony's death — provided to Metro by the Heffernan family, they allege that the force used on Anthony was "excessive and unnecessary" and lead to his "wrongful death."

Defendants are listed as Calgary's then, interim, chief-of-police, Paul Cook, Const. McLoughlin, and John Doe #2 through #6.

The claim shows that the Heffernan family is seeking $225,000 to cover funeral costs, grief counselling as well as lost wages and legal fees.

Grant said he's hoping that this isn't settled outside of court, but rather goes to trial so that the accused — Const. McLoughlin, would have to speak out for the first time about what transpired the day Anthony was killed.

> **It's not about the money at all. We're suing just for accountability.**
> Grant Heffernan

"If we can go to trial, Const. McLoughlin will have to testify. He will have to get on the stand and explain what happened that afternoon with my brother," he said.

Grant said he feels the police have "stonewalled" the investigation.

Further, Grant said there are still many unanswered question in the case. He said his family was told that two additional bullets were found — one next to Anthony's head, and the other through the window of an adjacent hotel room.

"With a bullet a few inches from my brother's head while he's laying on the ground, we wonder if that last bullet was fired when my brother was already dead on the ground?"

Metro has reached out to Calgary police who said they have yet to see the actual claim.

"But, regardless, we are unable to comment as this case is now before the courts."

DEVELOPMENT

Council OKs 64 homes on golf course

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

The Hamptons Golf Course is going to get a bit smaller as parts of the course are given up for the construction of 64 new units.

Councillors approved the controversial plan after a morning of hearing from residents who did not want to lose golf course space — and in some cases backyard views — to new development.

Only Coun. Peter Demong and Mayor Naheed Nenshi voted against the plan. Demong said he's frustrated to see people buying in areas zoned for golf, only to have that change.

"The fact that golf is on the decline encourages the behaviour," said Demong, adding he wants to see a better format for these sorts of changes in the future.

Coun. Gian Carlo-Carra saw things differently, noting that having golf communities is an important part of a large, vibrant city, and that the applicants were attempting to save the entire golf course by sacrificing a portion of it.

"This is a very modest change to the landscape to create economic viability for the applicant," said Carra.

After the first reading of the bylaw had been approved, Coun. Andre Chabot put forward an amendment that would prevent homeowners from adding secondary suites.

Mayor Nenshi cautioned against approving that amendment, saying the fears residents might have of ne'er-do-wells are not based in reality.

"We will absolutely have homeowners who will want nanny suites and in-law suites," said the mayor.

That motion was defeated on a 6-6 tie. Couns. Jim Stevenson, Brian Pincott and Druh Farrell were absent.

The Hamptons Community Association declined to comment after the decision.

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Westhills Site: 10:30 am

EASTER SERVICES – April 15/16, 2017
Bearspaw Site: Sunday at 9 & 11 am
Bowridge Site: Saturday at 6:30 pm, Sunday at 10 am
Westhills Site: Sunday at 10:30 am

Bearspaw Site: 255024 Lochend Road
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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

$10,000 Soul of the City grant adds oomph to local projects

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Calgarians can once again add their voice to the Soul of the City project and improve local neighbourhoods.

It's like Dragon's Den, just much friendlier.

10 different community projects will pitch for a shot at one of five $10,000 grants (courtesy of the Calgary Foundation and RBC) and the audience will vote on which projects should receive the funding. The organization is inviting anyone and everyone out to lend their vote.

This is the fourth year Soul of the City has taken place, and previous winners said the grant was vital in getting their projects off the ground.

In Dover, for instance, there once sat a dilapidated tennis court — locked up and unused. The community proposed de-paving the court and creating a communal garden. They topped it off with a mural made entirely of re-used wood from around the area, in partnership with Antyx Community Arts.

"We were trying to set up a meeting place," explained organizer Karen Begg. "Our garden is actually communal, which makes it different from a regular community garden, in that there's no fee."

Previous winners of Soul of the City used funds to convert an old tennis court into it a community garden. FACEBOOK

A hop over to Wildwood, and you'll find a community that's just completed a kinetic water spiral sculpture made from recycled materials. More than an art piece, the sculpture catches water and stores it in an underground cistern so it can be pumped back out to be used in the community garden.

"The Soul of the City gave us free reign on how inventive or creative we wanted to be with the project," said Michelena Bamford, who designed the project with Lane Shordee.

"I think it's a really important grant in terms of supporting emerging artists or projects that normally wouldn't get other streams of funding."

This year's Soul of the City pitch night takes place on April 19, at the Central Public Library.

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Two youth basketball clubs suspended

SPORTS

Both say they were blindsided by decision

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

Two Calgary youth basketball clubs said Calgary Minor Basketball Association (CMBA) left them in the lurch when they received an email stating they'd been suspended from this year's spring league.

The Calgary Storm basketball club and Calgary Youth Development Club (CYDC) said they were informed of their suspensions via email — which they provided to Metro — stating that their suspensions were based on numerous complaints in past years."

"We feel that Storm/CYDC does not share the same vision that CMBA has for basketball in Calgary," wrote the CMBA in the early February correspondence.

In interviews with Metro, both Storm and CYDC said they were blindsided by this decision as neither of them had been informed of any misconduct or potential suspensions.

"It was very surprising," said Amy Rapada, administrator for Storm. "We were thought, 'Whoa, what is going on?'"

John Hedgewood, president of CYDC Panthers Club was granted a meeting with CMBA — only because he replied within 24 hours, according to CMBA first vice-president Dave Clark — where they were told the suspensions were because both clubs were intentionally running up the score on other teams. "They really gave us no justification except that we ran scored up on teams, and we said 'no we didn't intentionally run up scores on any team,'" he said. "We stated to them that we have been on the losing side of some very lopsided scores ourselves and had never complained."

Hedgewood said the clubs should have been brought in to discuss the matter and work on a solution.

Rapada said Storm was never granted a meeting — which Clark confirmed — stating that CMBA chose not to meet with the club as they had responded by threatening legal action right off the bat.

In an interview with Metro, Clark said that the decision to suspend both clubs was made unanimously by the CMBA board of directors, and that in September both clubs are invited to meet with them to discuss reinstatement for the following season.

Stéphane Guevremont, a Calgary military historian, says Vimy Ridge is often mislabelled as a defining moment for Canadians, ignoring immigrants' service. AUTUMN FOX/FOR METRO

HISTORY

Contributions by Alberta forgotten

Autumn Fox
For Metro | Calgary

Canadians recently celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, but few could tell you of its actual significance.

Stéphane Guevremont, a military historian in Calgary, said eight out of 17 Canadian battalions were from the western prairies, but most soldiers were recent immigrants. In fact, 70 per cent of the first fighting contingent of Canadians were not actually Canadian at all.

Many enlisted thinking it would be "a free trip home because they were told the war would be over by Christmas. The problem was, they never said which Christmas."

Guevremont said despite the tendency to describe World War I as a defining moment for Canada, it actually was very divisive for those on opposite sides of the country.

As well, he argued that it could not be considered a unifying moment for Canada's First Nations people either — despite Henry Norwest, one of the greatest heroes from Vimy, being a Métis from Fort Saskatchewan, Alta.

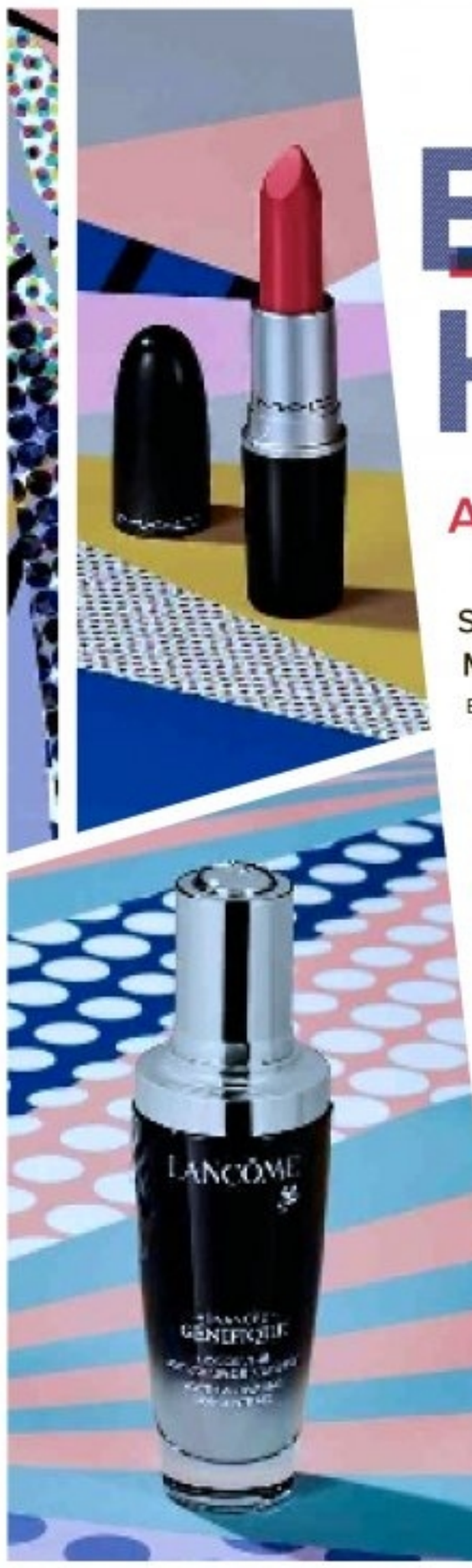
One of the four Victoria Cross recipients from the Battle of Vimy Ridge, Private John Pattison had immigrated from England and was 41 years old when he enlisted, with the 50th Battalion in Calgary. He fought — and died — in place of his 16-year-old son, who had enlisted while underage.

Raymond Brutinel, born in France, and editor of a French language newspaper in Edmonton, "bought Ford Model T chassis, put armour on them, put machine guns on them, and offered them to the Canadian army. This was the creation of the first Canadian motor gun brigade. We were ahead of everybody," said Guevremont.

Canada couldn't have made the contribution it did in Vimy without the sacrifice of its immigrant population, said Guevremont.

"In Canada it instils a sense of pride. And yes, maybe half of those guys were not Canadian, but after Vimy, they saw themselves as Canadian," he said.

HUDSON'S BAY



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Andrew Ferguson, owner of the Kensington Wine Market, shows off some of the exclusive, quirky offerings of the Scotch Malt Whisky Society. AUTUMN FOX/FOR METRO

Scotch society offers bold, unique flavour

CULTURE

Tasting panel evaluates casks of speciality whisky

Autumn Fox
For Metro | Calgary

Peat, oak, smoke; these are some of the first flavours that come to mind when describing a good Scotch.

But what about chipotle chilli pepper, dried pineapple or candy necklaces? Scotch purists might consider such flavours to be blasphemous, but for members of the Scotch Malt Whisky Society (SMWS), these are palate-pleasers.

"It's meant to evoke some kind of image — because the sense of smell can create connections with memory that are quite unique," said Rob Carpenter, co-founder of the Canadian SMWS chapter.

Based in Edinburgh, a SMWS tasting panel evaluates specialty casks of whisky and chooses seven casks to be bottled and sold each month to society members around the world.

Each bottle is given a specific code: the first number representing the distillery, the second number is how many casks were bottled. The distillery codes can be found online but most are more interested in the taste.

"It's a different approach — most of the industry really tries to play on history. They don't play up where it's from, they play up the fact that it's a good whisky," said Andrew Ferguson, owner of the Kensington Wine Market.

"You have a range of flavours from the most light and delicate and fine, to the most over-the-top, aggressive, in your face, unapologetic profile, and everything in between," he added.

The flavours and aromas are so varied and distinct that each bottle comes with its own quirky name and description.

The Edinburgh tasting panel includes "whisky writers and poets who can put evocative things around what they can smell and taste," Carpenter said.

"Some of my favourite names over the years were 'Wild West Cowgirl Dressed in Leather,' and 'Baby-Faced Arsonist'; they're really all over the map," said Ferguson.

The exclusivity is also a selling feature for members — some of which have collections numbering in the hundreds.

"It's always a bit of a frenzy to get access to these bottles," said Carpenter. "Once they're sold out, they're gone forever."

> **The sense of smell can create connections with memory.**
> Rob Carpenter

COMIC BOOKS

Stan Lee planning to swing by Calgary expo to honour legend

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Even after saying 2016 would be his last visit to the Calgary Comic and Entertainment Expo, Stan Lee has come out of Canadian convention retirement to join in Todd McFarlane's homecoming at this year's expo.

Lee is one of the creators of comic book legends like Spider-Man, Hulk, the Fantastic Four, Iron Man, the X-Men and others and was a driving force behind Marvel Comics' rise to the top of the comic book industry.

He posted a video about his return to Calgary on Facebook.

"Hey my Canadian cousins. You know, I had said I couldn't be back to Canada anymore, but then I found out my dear friend Todd McFarlane is going to be there and he asked if I would join him, and nobody can say no to Todd McFarlane," Lee said in his post.

The pair will appear at the Calgary Comic & Entertainment Expo all weekend, including a special spotlight panel with dates and times to be announced.

Stan Lee METRO FILE

Ebrahim Toure has never been charged with a crime but has been at the Central East Correctional Centre in Lindsay, Ont. for four years on immigration detention. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A 'deficient process'

DETENTION

Immigrants locked up based on dodgy risk assessments

Canada's border police have left vital records blank and said they lack the expertise to assess the risks posed by immigration detainees, documents filed in federal court reveal.

"I am not a medical or mental health professional," one Canada Border Services Agency officer wrote on a risk assessment form in 2015. "I have not received any training on the completion of the form. This assessment is cursory in nature and should not be construed as an accurate representation of the subject's risk or mental health status."

The form which the officer admitted he or she was untrained and ill-equipped to complete had real consequences for Kyon Ferril, the immigration detainee in question, as it meant he would continue to serve his detention in a maximum-security jail rather than a less-restrictive facility.

Torstar's review of documents found erratic use of the form known as a National Risk Assessment for Detention, or NRAD. It is to be filled out when an immigration detainee is first incarcerated and, according to policy, should be reassessed every 60 days. The form determines in what kind of facility a detainee will be placed by classifying them as high-, medium- or low-risk.

The federal government runs three medium-security facilities dedicated to immigration detention, which are not full. But "high-risk" detainees are sent to maximum-security provincial jails, where, by the government's own calculation, two-thirds of the total number of immigration detention days are spent.

Lawyer Jared Will has taken the cases of two men to federal court to challenge the immigration detention system and is shocked by the "lack of competence" of the officers filling out the forms.

"Very important decisions on people's basic liberty and security interests are being made in one of the most deficient administrative processes I've ever seen," he said.

Ebrahim Toure, a 45-year-old failed refugee claimant has spent more than four years awaiting deportation at Central East Correctional Centre, a maximum-security jail in Lindsay, Ont.

Toure has often wondered why he is not at the Immigration Holding Centre. He is not considered a danger to the public and had never spent a night in jail. Border services has said he was designated "high-risk" due to "criminality" in the U.S., which Torstar found consists of a conviction for selling pirated CDs and DVDs in Atlanta and a $1,000 fine for "reckless conduct." Neither offence led to jail time. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Training on sexual assault trauma wanted

A group that represents Crown prosecutors told MPs on Tuesday that they could use the training as well.

"We do not get adequate training and we particularly do not get training on the trauma of sexual assault," said Ursula Hendel, president of the Association of Justice Counsel.

The committee is studying a bill that would require lawyers receive training on sexual assault before being eligible for federal judicial appointments.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO OTTAWA

MILITARY

Israeli transgender officer stresses tolerance

Shachar Erez is the first transgender officer in the IDF. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shachar Erez recalls the day five years ago when, as an 18-year-old female Israeli soldier, the time had come to tell his commanding officer something profound about himself — that he believed he was a man.

He had already broken the news to his family, including his two younger brothers, and it had come as no surprise. When he was two, he asked his parents to cut his hair; at five, his dresses and skirts were tossed out.

But what would his army commander think? She was only 19, herself. "She only asked me one thing: 'How can I help?' It was amazing."

The answer changed Erez's life, and set him on a course to become an international ambassador of sorts for the Israel Defence Forces on LGBT rights after becoming its first and highest-ranking openly transgender officer.

It was in that role that he was in Ottawa recently to meet senior officials in the Canadian Forces, who are still in the throes of wrestling with their own policy on transgender issues in the military.

The Forces' long-awaited policy on transgender personnel was expected at the end of last year, but it now appears tied up in the broader policy review of the military.

How to better educate personnel to lessen the likelihood of discrimination and abuse is expected to be a feature of the new policy. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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White House press secretary Sean Spicer talks to reporters during the daily press briefing at the White House on Tuesday. ANDREW HARNIK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spicer apologizes for Hitler comment

POLITICS

Donald Trump's press secretary under fire from Jewish groups

White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer apologized Tuesday for making an "inappropriate and insensitive" comparison to the Holocaust in earlier comments about Syrian President Bashar Assad's use of chemical weapons — remarks that drew instant rebuke from Jewish groups and critics.

Spicer said in an interview with CNN that he was trying to make a point about Assad's use of chemical weapons and gas against his people but "mistakenly made an inappropriate and insensitive reference to the Holocaust, for which there is no comparison. And for that I apologize. It was a mistake to do that."

During the daily White House briefing, Spicer told reporters that Adolf Hitler "didn't even sink to using chemical weapons." Critics noted the remark ignored Hitler's use of gas chambers to exterminate Jews during the Holocaust.

It was the second day in a row in which Spicer, President Donald Trump's main spokesman, appeared to struggle to articulate the president's foreign policy at a critical time. The White House generated criticism at the start of the year when a statement on international Holocaust Remembrance Day did not make any reference to Jews.

> **In no way was I trying to lessen the horrendous nature of the Holocaust.**
> Sean Spicer

In the CNN interview, Spicer said his comments did not reflect Trump's views. "My comments today did not reflect the president's, were a distraction from him and frankly were misstated, insensitive and wrong." He added, "Obviously it was my blunder."

During the briefing, Spicer was asked about his initial statement but delivered a garbled defence of his remarks in which he tried to differentiate between Hitler's actions and the gas attack on Syrian civilians last week.

The attack in northern Syria left nearly 90 people dead, and Turkey's health minister said tests show sarin gas was used.

"I think when you come to sarin gas, there was no, he (Hitler) was not using the gas on his own people the same way that Assad is doing," Spicer said. "There was clearly … I understand your point, thank you. There was not … He brought them into the Holocaust centre I understand that."

"I appreciate the clarification. That was not the intent," he said.

After the briefing, Spicer emailed a statement to reporters: "In no way was I trying to lessen the horrendous nature of the Holocaust. I was trying to draw a distinction of the tactic of using airplanes to drop chemical weapons on population centres. Any attack on innocent people is reprehensible and inexcusable."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GLOBAL DIGEST

Draft resolution circulated
Britain, France and the United States have circulated a revised UN draft resolution that would condemn the reported use of chemical weapons in northern Syria and demand that all parties provide speedy access to investigators to the sites. The resolution also calls for those responsible for the attack to be brought to justice. AP

School shooter threatened his wife
The man who opened fire in a San Bernardino school was a pastor and Navy veteran who accused his newlywed wife of infidelity. When he failed in his efforts to win her back, he went to her classroom and fatally shot her and one of the special needs children she taught, police said Tuesday. AP

Hundreds missing
Authorities and aid workers are searching for several hundred migrants who disappeared after a fire ravaged their camp in the Dunkirk suburb of Grande-Synthe in France, a shocking blaze that exposed anew the challenges and tensions around Europe's migrants just 12 days before France's presidential election. AP

Dr. David Dao of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, with his granddaughter and his wife Teresa. INSTAGRAM

United's PR nightmare

BUSINESS

Experts say airline fumbled bumping fiasco

United Airlines is getting pummeled on late-night TV. Online, jokers are proposing new corporate slogans such as "We'll drag you all over the world" and "We have red eye and black eye flights available."

The cellphone video of airport police dragging a 69-year-old passenger off an overbooked flight has become a public-relations fiasco for United, with travel and experts saying the airline fumbled from the start and made matters worse with a tone-deaf apology from the CEO.

It's too soon to know whether Sunday night's incident at Chicago's O'Hare Airport will cause lasting harm. Many travellers go for the cheapest fare, no matter what the name on the plane. And United frequent flyers won't easily give up their miles.

Then again, there are those videos of the man being yanked out of his seat and pulled down the aisle on his back.

"That is the craziest act I've ever seen. Who drags a ticketed passenger off an airplane?" said Bruce Rubin, a practitioner of crisis public relations in Miami. "Because it's so visual and it's so unnecessary, it's the kind of thing that can hurt United long-term."

The man hauled off the plane, David Dao, had been told along with three other passengers to give up their seats so that four employees of the company operating the flight could board. Dao was the only one to refuse.

To make room, United had tried to entice volunteers with travel vouchers worth $800 and a hotel room. When there were no takers, a United manager went on board and announced that four people would be removed.

Big mistake, say the crisis-management experts. Everyone wondered why United didn't simply sweeten the offer until four passengers agreed to get off.

"A few dollars could have solved this problem," said Allen Adamson, founder of Brand Simple Consulting in New York. "Instead, the damage of the brand will be millions of dollars."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

One passenger equals a billion dollar mistake

4.4%

United stock plunged 4.4 per cent Tuesday.

The stock of parent United Continental Holdings Inc. plunged 4.4 per cent Tuesday morning but recovered and was off 1.4 per cent shortly before the closing bell. Earlier in the day, the massive plunge in stock value knocking off close to $1 billion off the company's value before the stock bounced back a bit.

The recovery was attributed to a third and stronger mea culpa released by United CEO Oscar Munoz, in which he apologized for the "truly horrific event," saying, "No one should ever be mistreated this way." He promised a review of airline policies by April 30 and vowed to "fix what's broken so this never happens again."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Who is Dr. David Dao?

The man dragged from a full United Express flight has been identified as physician Dr. David Dao of Elizabethtown, Kentucky.

Dao is a 69-year-old Vietnamese-American, a father of five, and grandfather specializing in internal medicine.

Media reports claim that Dao's wife Teresa, 69, is a pediatrican who trained at Ho Chi Minh University in Saigon and she also practices in Elizabethtown.

The violent incident aboard the United flight has reached the news in China, with many users accusing United of racism and calling for a boycott.

An 18-year-old Chinese student in the U.K. has even created an online petition calling on the U.S. government to investigate the violent incident.

"We are calling the federal government to launch an investigation into this incident. #ChineseLivesMatters," the petition says.

METRO WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Wednesday

EMMA TEITEL ON SUPPORTING THE WOMEN'S GAME

Until sports fans give women's teams the daily attention they give men's teams, nothing major will change for professional female athletes or their salaries

When I was a kid in the late 1990s, I attended a hockey camp at Seneca College in Toronto where the lead instructor was Angela James, a Canadian hockey legend dubbed the Wayne Gretzky of women's hockey by just about everyone who followed the sport at the time. A five-time world championship winner, James, in 2010, was one of the first women inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto. She was also only the second black athlete, and the first openly gay athlete, to make the Hall.

My own interaction with James was less momentous, but maybe more profound. The second day at camp, I peed in my hockey pants. It didn't matter that none of the other campers noticed; I was mortified. But James was wise enough to see that something was amiss, and kind enough to escort me to the bathroom right away. "It happens to the best of us," she said, handing me a fresh towel. I returned to the ice dry and happy, and saved.

It was a high point in my hockey career (getting a pep talk from a star athlete, not peeing in my pants) but I've always wondered if it was a low point in the career of Angela James. When Wayne Gretzky retired he was left with wealth and fame and the option to live the rest of his life in a golden state of leisure and golf. Angela James, a woman hockey genius, was left with the need to continue working a full-time job to survive (just as she had to work while she was playing hockey), including the opportunity to chaperone incontinent kids to the bathroom. Very few female hockey players in the '90s and early 2000s could support themselves — let alone live the high life — on their earnings as professionals.

WINNING STRATEGY Angela James, one of the first women inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame, says the game should go barnstorming to build a fan base. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Nearly 20 years later, not much has changed. Consider, as a recent example, the women of USA Hockey. Winners of the last three world championships, (and some of the best players that ever lived), last month they threatened to boycott this year's IIHF Ice Hockey World Championships, if their parent organization didn't meet the team's demands for fair pay and increased publicity. USA Hockey stonewalled the team almost until the eve of the tournament, then finally agreed to a new deal. Henceforth the American women will each receive a $2,000 training stipend every month, every year, and larger bonuses when they win medals at major tournaments.

As victories go, it's a precarious one, it seems to me. The source of the previous injustice still remains: general fan indifference to female team sports, except for a two-week period every four years when the Olympics are held. Until sports fans — men and, yes, women too — give women's teams the daily attention they give men's teams, nothing major will change for professional female team athletes or their salaries.

Angela James agrees. I know because I called her up recently. James, who still works at Seneca College today as the school's sports co-ordinator, wonders if what's holding women's hockey back is, in part, a desire to emulate the NHL.

"I'm not the smartest business person, but I know that any business needs to go smaller before they go bigger." A good way to do this? Barnstorm, argues James. Women's teams, even at a junior hockey level, might have more success shoring up a sizable fan base if they start grassroots, touring small venues, in small towns and cities. "Go to a smaller rink where you can fill a smaller rink," she says. Of course, Hockey Canada has no trouble filling the ACC when the national women's team is in town, but they play large-scale venues only a few times a year. This gives hockey fans a token look at the women's game, says James, and not a whole lot more.

Part of the solution may lie in playing up the skills women have that men lack. Men's hockey is speedier and more violent, no doubt, but the female game is arguably smarter. It rewards strategy over size and strength. Women's hockey is plenty tough, but knowledge of the game is paramount.

This is something Draymond Green, a power forward with the NBA's Golden State Warriors, sees when it comes to basketball. Green is a big fan of the WNBA. "In the NBA there's always a guy who is only around because he can jump," Green told Sports Illustrated last year. "He doesn't have a clue about the fundamentals. I learn more from the WNBA. They know how to dribble, how to pivot, how to use the shot fake."

They also know, presumably, how to work a second job, and possibly help out young players with bladder malfunctions. They may forget specific names and faces, but they don't forget the experience. Angela James, for instance, has no memory of helping me personally out on the ice, because, she says, I was one of several campers over the years who wet themselves mid-drill. Either way, she assures me the incident would "absolutely not" constitute a low point in her career. "Unless it was puke," she said. "I can't do puke."

The thing is, men rarely have to.

Part of the solution may lie in playing up the skills women have that men lack.

Emma Teitel is a Toronto Star national affairs columnist.

VICKY MOCHAMA

Forget what the boss says or the computer allows; just be good to each other

A company pays you for your labour — not so you can abdicate all moral responsibility.

By now, you've seen the video of a doctor being dragged off a United Airlines flight. For obvious reasons, it is upsetting.

But the more insidiously upsetting thing is that we have become inured to one another: Human beings enforced the company's rules.

News reports say United requested four people give up their seats in order to give those seats to ground crew. When no one on the flight volunteered, people were selected at random and told to get off the plane in exchange for vouchers.

The passenger pled his case: he had to get back to Louisville to see patients. But the airline's agents and security had already bought into the company's logic.

And because the man had not, he had to be forcibly removed, or in the parlance of United, "re-accommodated."

Defending their actions, the police say the passenger "fell." The video clearly shows that the police, shall we say, re-accommodated him into a non-standing position.

We have become used to a system that isolates us from each other and a logic in which the state protects companies from us. How often has a reasonable request been denied because "the computer can't do it?"

Corporations (and the state) have an interest in reinforcing our helplessness. And it's taught early.

The New York Times reports that New Mexico has outlawed "lunch shaming," when cafeteria workers shame kids whose parents haven't paid their school lunch bills. Children can be made to do chores in exchange for their lunch or branded with stamps and wristbands.

Let us set aside for the moment that one of the richest nations in the world can't feed the children it is educating. Let's focus on the smaller acts of intervention.

Lunch shaming is a sickening practice, but there are cafeteria staff who resist it. The Times reports that one worker had taken to paying some students' debt. Another had quit rather than deny food to children.

Most of us work for corporations with similar logic to United Airlines and school lunch providers.

Their goal is to maximize efficiency. But it doesn't have to be ours.

Because I lose my debit card as often as I possibly can, I have been grateful for the baristas who waved off my pitiful change, the bus drivers who waved me on when my pass didn't work, and the taxi drivers who got me home safe for free.

The gap between human empathy and corporate logic is not always as dangerous as being bloodied during a flight, but it can be, which is why we have a responsibility to resist it.

The world will not fall into anarchy if we exercise more compassion.

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Michel Bublé's son Noah doing well after cancer treatment

'You're not going to fix the world in one night'

Subject of new documentary Perfume War on how to run an ethical business

Melita Kuburas
Metro | Canada

She's a half-Jewish, half-Catholic woman from Nova Scotia doing business with Muslim men in Afghanistan. At least, these are the facts people often bring up to Barb Stegemann, asking: How do they treat you?

"The men in these countries treat me better than the white men in my own community," Stegemann says, always quick to point out that in Canada, we too live in a patriarchy.

"What's beautiful about ethical business is that they don't care what your gender is, or your faith. If you pay on time, you're good," says Stegemann in an interview with Metro's editorial team.

The founder and CEO of The 7 Virtues is the subject of a new documentary opening across Canada Friday called Perfume War, which profiles how she launched her fragrance business as a single mom, putting $20,000 of debt on her credit card.

Her motivation was an extraordinary event that changed many lives: In 2006 her best friend, Capt. Trevor Greene, took an axe to the head wielded by a member of the Taliban during what was supposed to be a protected meeting (*shura*) between Canadian Forces and tribal elders in Afghanistan. His attacker was an illiterate 16-year-old who was shot before he could strike again, but the first blow caused serious brain injury and left Greene unable to walk.

At his bedside in a Vancouver hospital, Stegemann vowed to continue Greene's peace-oriented mission. She found a supplier in Afghanistan named Abdullah Arsala who was selling essential oils to make perfume in an effort to derail the country's dependence on the dangerous and illegally grown poppy crops, used to make opium.

She launched her company in 2010 and now, 7 Virtues' line is expanded to five fragrances with oils also sourced from distilleries in Rwanda, Haiti, Israel, and Iran, with national distribution in Hudson's Bay and Lord & Taylor in the U.S.

"You're not going to fix the world in one night, but if you start you'll look back in six years and say we've made a difference," says Stegemann, who is now ready to take her company to the next level. She has her eye on the Holy Grail of the beauty industry: Sephora.

Next week, Stegemann is travelling to San Francisco to take part in Sephora's accelerator program, which aims to support women in the industry. Only four per cent of CEOs in the beauty business are female, she says. The 48-year-old will be mentored on how to revamp her perfumes so that she can pitch to the company and get them on the retailer's shelves.

Barb Stegemann launched her perfume company, The 7 Virtues, after her best friend was seriously injured in Afghanistan. Capt. Trevor Greene (pictured with Stegemann when they were younger) was attacked with an axe by a member of the Taliban, which caused brain damage.
LIZ BEDDALL/FOR METRO

TIPS FOR A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

• Partner with government agencies and NGOs
"Anyone who wants to be a social entrepreneur should have their supplier pre-qualified so you can feel safe knowing you're working with someone who's good to their farmers, not using pesticides, all the things you care about in your product sourcing," says Stegemann. She worked with CIDA, Building Markets, The Clinton Foundation and USAID.

• Ask a lot of questions

of people you work with
"A social entrepreneur needs to be curious and be OK with 'no' and ask again. I didn't always get direct answers."

• Spend time to build trust with your partners
Stegemann says she is transparent with her suppliers, and is happy to bring them new business even if it means her company won't be so "special."
"Over the years they see that you're not just in it for your oils," she says.
MELITA KUBURAS/METRO

In startup years, The 7 Virtues is an old company. One of her challenges is to show she's willing to do anything to become a global brand.

"You have to show that you're not attached to your ideas and you're malleable," she says, of the program. "If you said to me two months ago 'Why don't you redesign your fragrances?' I would have been like, don't you dare!"

But now, she has hired a new perfumer with the ultimate goal to increase sales and buy more oils from her distillery suppliers. This brings direct benefits to those communities.

In Rwanda, for instance, a woman working for patchouli supplier Nicholas of Ikirezi earns three times the income a coffee crop worker makes; in Afghanistan, the rose farmers make twice that of illegal-crop growers.

So while Stegemann's mission has only just started — she still wants to make a perfume using oils from Palestine — her best friend, who has made remarkable progress on his recovery, is happy with all that she has been able to accomplish.

"Barb completed my mission," says Greene in the documentary. "Who would have thought..perfume?"

Speak of the devilled (eggs)

DO IT LIKE THE PROS

1 HOW TO BOIL AN EGG

Place eggs in a large pot or saucepan. Add cold water until eggs are covered by an inch of water. Bring water to boil. Reduce heat to simmer. Cover and let cook for 12 to 14 minutes. Drain and immediately submerge in ice-cold water for at least 20 minutes before peeling.

2 HOW TO PEEL AN EGG

A cold egg is less likely than a still warm egg to dent or stick to the shell when peeled. When cooled, remove from water and gently tap the eggshell all over. Peel the egg in a bowl of cold water to wash away any sticky bits of shell.

3 HOW TO STORE DEVILLED EGGS

Devilled eggs are best eaten immediately but can be made up to a day in advance. Store the cooked whites and yolk mixture in separate containers in the fridge and assemble just before eating. This also ensures the eggs don't fall apart or get crushed if being transported to a party.

Decorating eggs for Easter is fun, until you're left to eat a carton of plain boiled eggs — not much of a treat. Why not add colour to the egg whites and flavour to the yolks? We started with the delightfully retro devilled egg and gave it three distinctly different flavours. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Borscht Eggs

These eggs have a deep purple-pink tinge after marinating in pickled beet juice overnight. Mixing the yolks with horseradish and topping it off with herring, capers and dill completes this Russian-inspired appetizer.

2 1/2 cups (625 mL) water
1 cup (250 mL) apple cider vinegar
2 tbsp (30 mL) granulated sugar
1/2 tsp (2 mL) Kosher salt
1 small beet, peeled and sliced thinly
6 hard-boiled eggs, peeled
2 tbsp (30 mL) mayonnaise
2 tbsp (30 mL) prepared horseradish
1/2 tsp (2 mL) fresh dill, plus more for garnish, chopped
Freshly ground black pepper, to taste
Jarred pickled herring, for garnish
Capers, for garnish

In a saucepan, combine water, vinegar, sugar salt and beets. Bring to boil over medium-high heat. Turn heat down to medium and simmer for 5 minutes.

Place boiled eggs in a bowl and add beet mixture. Make sure eggs are submerged. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight. Stir occasionally for even colour distribution.

Drain eggs and chop beets into small matchsticks for garnish. Using a very sharp non-serrated knife, slice eggs in half lengthwise.

Gently squeeze yolks into a bowl with fingers (they should pop right out, if not, use a spoon to help). Place cooked whites on serving platter.

Mash yolks with a fork and stir in mayonnaise, salt and pepper until creamy and combined.

Dispense yolk mixture back into egg whites using a spoon or a piping bag fitted with a large star tip.

Garnish with herring, dill, capers and chopped bees.

Serve immediately. Makes 12.

Soy Sauce and Miso-Ginger Eggs

2 1/2 cups (625 mL) water
3 tbsp (45 mL) dark Chinese soy sauce
1 tsp granulated sugar
2 slices fresh ginger
3 star anise pods
1/2 tsp black peppercorns
6 hard-boiled eggs, peeled
2 tbsp (30 mL) mayonnaise
1 tsp (5 mL) white miso paste
1/4 tsp freshly grated ginger
1 stalk green onion, finely chopped

In saucepan, combine water, soy sauce, sugar, ginger, star anise and peppercorns. Bring to boil over medium heat. Turn down to low and let simmer for 5 minutes.

Pour soy sauce mixture over eggs, ensuring eggs are submerged in liquid. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight. Stir every so often for even colour distribution.

Drain liquid and discard

spices. Slice eggs in half lengthwise. Gently squeeze out yolks into a bowl. Place cooked whites on serving platter. Mash yolks with a fork and stir in mayonnaise, miso paste and ginger. Dispense yolk mixture back into egg whites. Garnish with green onion and furikake. Serve immediately, makes 12.

Curried Eggs

2 1/2 cups (625 mL) water
1 cup (250 mL) apple cider vinegar
1 tbsp (15 mL) ground turmeric
1/2 tsp (2 mL) Kosher salt
6 hard-boiled eggs, peeled
2 tbsp (30 mL) mayonnaise
1/2 tsp (2 mL) curry powder
Pinch of ground cumin
Pinch of cayenne
1 tbsp (15 mL) canola or vegetable oil
1/4 cup (60 mL) canned chickpeas, drained, rinsed and dried
Kosher salt, to taste

Combine water, vinegar, turmeric and salt. Boil and simmer for 5 minutes.

Place eggs in a bowl and pour turmeric mixture over eggs to completely submerge. Refrigerate overnight. Stir every so often for even colour distribution.

Drain liquid and rinse off any excess turmeric. Slice eggs in half lengthwise.

Gently squeeze yolks into a bowl. Mash yolks and stir in mayonnaise, curry powder, cumin and cayenne. Dispense yolk mixture back into egg whites. In a small skillet, heat oil. Add chickpeas and sauté till browned and crispy, about 6 to 8 minutes. Remove excess oil. Garnish eggs with fried chickpeas and additional pinch of cayenne.

Serve immediately. Makes 12.

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This ham and kale onion tart could be the ideal brunch treat this Easter. CONTRIBUTED

Plan the perfect brunch this Easter

RECIPE

Combine ham and kale for this delightful holiday bite

Ricardo Larrivée
life@metronews.ca

I love laying out a brunch spread for Easter. Unlike Christmas, it's a holiday that's relatively pressure-free — there aren't too many expectations in my family and our traditions aren't set in stone. Not only that but it's usually been a while since everyone has gathered around the table for a big, leisurely meal.

When spring is in the air, I love to take advantage of the season's fresh produce. Eggs are fun to include (they scream Easter, after all) and ham is a classic in our house, though I tend to prepare it differently every time.

Ham and Kale Onion Tart

Makes 4 to 6 servings.

Ingredients:
Crust:
- 1-1/4 cups (190 g) unbleached all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) baking powder
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) salt
- 1/2 cup (115 g) cold butter, cut into cubes
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) ice water

Filling:
- 3 red onions, thinly sliced
- 3 tbsp (40 g) butter
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) 35% heavy cream
- 1/2 cup (50 g) grated Emmental cheese
- 1/2 lb (225 g) cooked ham, diced
- 2 cups (60 g) coarsely chopped kale, stems removed

Directions:
1. To make the crust, in a food processor, combine flour, baking powder and salt.

2. Add butter and pulse until butter forms pea-sized pieces. Add water and pulse again until dough just begins to form. Add more water, if needed.

3. Remove dough from processor and shape into a disc. On a lightly-floured surface, roll dough out into a 1/8-inch (3 mm) thick rectangle. Line a 13 x 4-inch (33 x 10 cm) tart pan with a removable bottom. Remove any excess dough. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.

4. For the filling, with the rack in the middle position, preheat the oven to 400 F (200 C).

5. In a non-stick skillet over medium heat, soften 2 onions in 2 tbsp of butter. Let cool.

6. In a bowl, beat eggs with cream. Add cheese. Season with salt and pepper. Layer onions on crust. Pour egg mixture over onions.

7. Bake for about 30 minutes or until crust is golden brown.

8. In the same skillet over high heat, brown remaining onion, ham and kale in remaining butter for 3 minutes or until the kale has wilted and ham is heated through.

9. Unmould tart and slide onto a cutting board or serving plate. Top with ham and kale mixture.

10. Serve hot or cooled.

ONE MORE RECIPE FOR YOUR EASTER MENU

Radicchio, Pear and Pecan Salad

Makes 6 to 8 servings.

Radicchio is one of those leaves that take a while to master. It has a superbly crisp texture and packs a hit of pleasant bitterness.

This dish gives the purple plant the spotlight.

By finely slicing the radicchio and combining it with sweet pears and tender butter lettuce, it becomes the heart of the salad's lively flavour — second only to crunchy, toasted pecans...

This radicchio pecan salad is the perfect healthy Easter bite.

Ingredients:
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) olive oil
- 4 tsp (20 mL) white wine vinegar
- 1 tsp(5 mL) Dijon mustard
- 3 pears, ripe but firm, cored and cut into thin wedges
- 1 radicchio, thinly sliced
- 1 head Boston lettuce, torn into pieces
- 1/2 cup (50 g) pecans, toasted

Directions:
1. In a bowl, whisk together oil, vinegar and mustard. Season with salt and pepper. Set aside.

2. In another bowl, toss pears with radicchio, lettuce and pecans.

3. Spread onto a large serving dish and dress with the vinaigrette. RICARDO LARRIVEE

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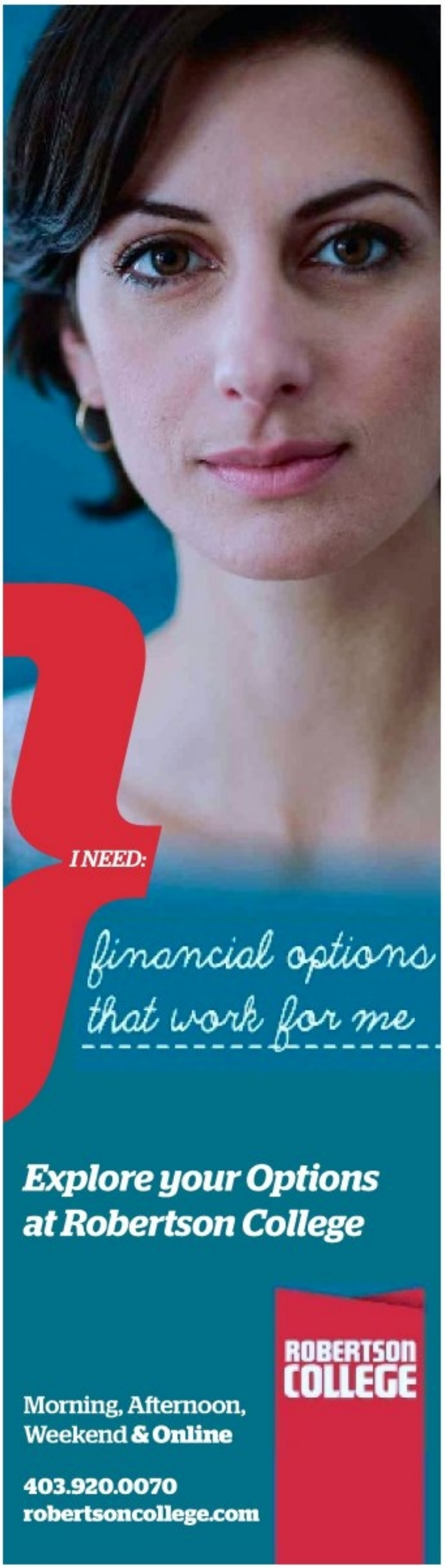

ROSE REISMAN THE SAVVY EATER

THIS WEEK: Assessing Chinese meal options

If you feel like Chinese food tonight, should you choose the honey garlic pork or chicken chow mein?

PICK THIS

Wong Wing Chicken Chow Mein

1 serving (200g)
Calories 190
Fat 1g
Sodium 770mg
Sugar 4g
Protein 11g

SKIP THIS

Wong Wing Honey Garlic Pork

1 serving (200g)
Calories 330
Fat 6g
Sodium 810mg
Sugar 35g
Protein 19g

HERE'S WHY

Honey Garlic Pork equivalent in sugar to 2.5 cups of Lucky Charms

Chinese food is a favourite, whether it's takeout or a quick and easy store-bought meal.

While you know that these meals are far from being nutritionally balanced, one can still be a better choice. The sweet taste of honey garlic comes from sugar and honey, which gives you about 9 tsp of sugar per serving. Additionally, Honey Garlic Pork has a third more calories and six times the fat.

The Chicken Chow Mein saves you on calories, fat, sodium and has very little sugar, but with less protein, may not keep you full. Take note: Neither is nutritious, so keep this to an occasional quick fix for your Chinese food cravings.

TV BRIEF

CBC apologizes for Canada: The Story of Us

The CBC apologized Tuesday in the wake of accusations of inaccuracies in its docu-drama "Canada: The Story of Us."

Politicians in Quebec and Nova Scotia are among those who have complained about the facts in the 10-hour series, which premiered on March 26.

"Whenever you recount a country's history, there will inevitably be citizens, historians and politicians who will have different points of view, and that's certainly been the case with 'Canada: The Story of Us,"' CBC spokesman Chuck Thompson said in a statement.

"After the first two episodes, some people felt misrepresented and for that, we apologize. We fully recognize that not everyone will agree with every perspective presented. Our intention was never to offend anyone or any group, nor diminish the importance of any of the stories that were not included."

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Sheryl Crow's new album, Be Myself, out April 21, has political and social themes. AP

Sheryl Crow's return reflects new times

MUSIC

Singer's new album helped her after Trump victory

Last year, Sheryl Crow started a petition on Change.org to shorten the U.S. presidential election cycle. The Grammy-winning singer-songwriter said she was exhausted by the constant mudslinging and divisive language.

"I felt like it was becoming so hateful that I had to watch to make sure my kids didn't pick up the remote and turn the TV on," she said, adding that it upsets her that technology and social media change conversation.

"Now we have this forum for haters to come out and say the worst thing you could possibly say to someone without having the experience of reaction. We've learned to be a society without empathy and without compassion."

The ways people interact became a central theme on her upcoming album, Be Myself.

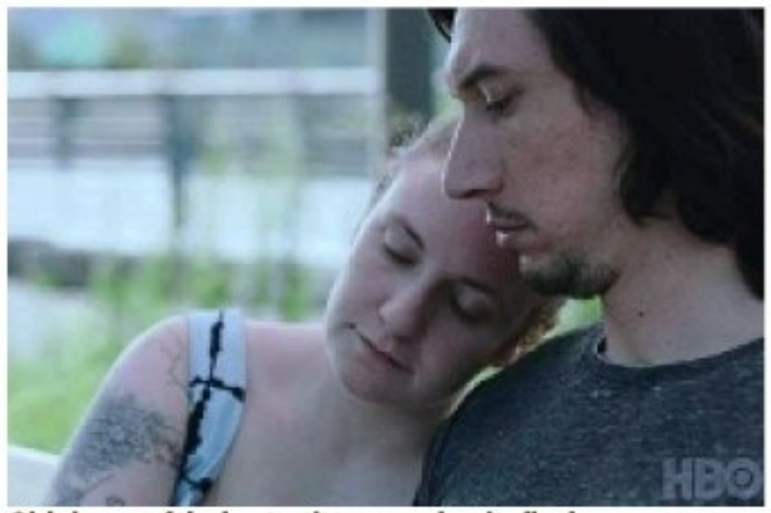
Crow said the album helped her after Donald Trump's victory.

"I started losing faith and not only for our country, but for the people that voted for him," Crow said. ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Girls still hits new heights in last season

THE SHOW: Girls, Season 6, Episode 8 (HBO)
THE MOMENT: The diner



Girls is one of the best as it approaches its finale. CONTRIBUTED

Hannah (Lena Dunham), pregnant, and Adam (Adam Driver) sit in a diner booth. It's been a remarkable day: Out of the blue, he told her he wants them to reunite. He'll raise her baby with her. She admits how frightened she's been of doing it alone.

They discuss moving in together. "I'm on the list for artist housing," he says. "They tend to favour married couples, though, so it might help if we did that."

Almost imperceptibly, Hannah blanches. But she natters on about joining a food co-op, "though I find the whole shift thing demeaning."

"I can do the shifts, if you handle the bills," Adam says.

She nods. But somehow she's crying. His smile fades.

Hannah doesn't speak. But the pain on her face says everything: As scary as it is to be alone, she can't be with him. She can't go backward. In the silence of her falling tears, we can hear their hearts crack.

Some series rise to magnificence in their final season – The Sopranos, Six Feet Under, Breaking Bad. They somehow both steam forward and reach the apotheosis of all their themes. Add Girls to that list.

This diner scene is everything. It encompasses an entire relationship, past, present and future, wordlessly. Did the script once have more dialogue? Did they pare it away as they realized Dunham's eyes could convey all they needed? Or was it always this shimmeringly silent?

That "voice of a generation" crack Dunham made in the pilot episode? Damn if it hasn't come true.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

SPONSORED CONTENT — SIOUX LOOKOUT

New health plan trying to fill gaps for First Nation communities

Providing medical services to an area as large as France is no easy task. Sioux Lookout and the surrounding region has 33 communities, and the majority of the 32,000 people living there are only accessible by air transportation. Covering the health needs of these communities is accordingly a formidable challenge.

Yet a new initiative from the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority hopes to unite existing services to meet that challenge.

"Our communities are remote and poverty-stricken. Their health has become a state of emergency," says Dr. Terri Farrell, Sioux Lookout's medical director. "There's extremely poor physical and mental health in the region, with high instances of mental health issues."

So in February 2016, after a Health and Public Health emergency was declared for the region, an initiative was offered via the Ontario Indigenous Health Action Plan. "We could apply for an interdisciplinary and primary health care team at $3 million a year," says Farrell. "It isn't a lot for what we need. But it was the first step."

The plan would supplement the current setup of physicians and Health Canada nurses working in the region. "This would fill the gap

CONTRIBUTED

of services," says Farrell. This comes in the form of 20 health care providers such as family physicians, nurse practitioners, dieticians, mental health workers, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and more. While the group would focus on children and youth health, it wouldn't exclusively serve that population.

Importantly these services are based on an outreach model. "While the head office is in Sioux Lookout, the focus is providing these services in the communities as much as possible," says Farrell. "It's a big initiative. That is why we need smart and dedicated people to deliver these vital services. We are looking for people that want to make a difference."

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Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority

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Dino World

Approximately 150 intact dinosaur skeletons have been discovered at Dinosaur Provincial Park in Alberta. ISTOCK

BADLANDS

A dream come true for dinosaur fanatics

Sean Plummer

What kid doesn't dream of visiting a place called Dinosaur Provincial Park? Spanning 70 square kilometres of southeastern Alberta, this prehistoric oasis is where 150 intact dinosaur skeletons have been found and 150 species discovered.

In 1883, Thomas C. Weston, a member of the Geological Survey of Canada, was the first person to explore the area and publish his findings. While today the region is called the Canadian Badlands, 75 million years ago the area was subtropical, with lush forests of sycamore and magnolia, and rivers that teemed with turtles, crocodiles, and fish — perfect conditions for preserving dinosaur bones.

Established in 1955, the park today is a popular destination for dinosaur lovers both amateur and professional.

Visitors can hike or take guided bus tours in the summer, though some areas are restricted for paleontological research.

Shot of whisky with a taste of toe

It's 1973 in Dawson City, Yukon, and an eccentric local named Captain Dick finds a preserved human toe in a jar. What would follow is a strange tradition that lives on to this day.

At Dawson's Downtown Hotel, customers can order a Sourtoe Cocktail, a shot of Yukon Gold whisky with a real pickled human toe in the glass, which drinkers have to touch to their lips.

Over the years, more than a dozen toes have been lost, stolen or, gulp, swallowed.

SEAN PLUMMER

Liz Beddall downs the Sourtoe cocktail with no hesitation, giving the toe a kiss along the way. TORSTAR FILE PHOTO

Quebec dominates the syrup market

When a Time magazine business writer called Quebec the Saudi Arabia of maple syrup in a 2012 article, he wasn't kidding. The province produces 77 per cent of the world's supply, and the Federation of Quebec Maple Syrup Producers regulates how much of it hits world markets.

Weather conditions have to be just right — cold nights, temperate days — for a good harvest. Yet without it, pancake breakfast would be a bit flat.

SEAN PLUMMER

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For these siblings, cooking runs in the family

FOODIES

Jamie and Andrea Harling are young chefs on the rise

Shelley Boettcher

Andrea Harling (left) is the executive chef and partner at Made Foods and Jamie Harling is head chef at the Deane House. CONTRIBUTED

As a kid growing up in Toronto, Jamie Harling never thought about cooking professionally. He played football and planned to become a veterinarian.

"Then I had what was hopefully my last concussion," he says. His football career ended and so did his veterinary dreams. He completed a sociology degree but then decided to follow in his big sister's footsteps: He became a chef.

Today, Jamie and his sister Andrea Harling are two of Calgary's hottest young chefs. Jamie is head chef at the Deane House and Andrea is executive chef and partner at Made Foods. It's no surprise that the pair grew up in a household where sharing good food was important.

"We always had family meals," Jamie says. "Our one grandmother always made big family dinners, and our mom did as well." They foraged for wild blueberries as kids, and their grandfather's hot sauce recipe still gets passed around every Christmas. "Our grandfather and dad were big hunters. We had a sailboat on Georgian Bay and we used to fish a lot," Jamie says. "And our grandfather would make homemade sausage."

Looking back now, Jamie says, much of his attitude toward food was formed in those early years. "It had a huge influence on me."

It affected his sister, too. Six years older than her brother, Andrea was the first to become a chef and, many years ago, she gave her brother his first gig in a professional kitchen. "I was 16 and I needed a job," Jamie says.

"And she was the chef at a camp where we had gone as kids."

Jamie followed Andrea to Calgary when she moved here from Ontario. For a while, he worked for her, then he landed at Rouge, where he stayed for three years before moving to the Deane House last fall.

Will the siblings ever open a restaurant together? Maybe one day, but for now, they have enough on the go. Made Foods now has seven Calgary locations and is still expanding, and the Deane House is ramping up its summer garden program. But, Jamie notes, they talk about food every time they're together. "We're very supportive of each other."

ALL TOGETHER

Jamie and Andrea Harling will cook together on April 24 at a dinner in partnership with SAIT's culinary school and other local chefs, launching a scholarship in memory of chef Jonathan Sobol. For details, call (403) 570-0133.

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Cruising through the Carolinas

ALL PHOTOS CRAIG COLE/AUTOGUIDE.COM

REVIEW

Drive boasts local cuisine and Equinox's best assests

Craig Cole
AutoGuide.com

At new-vehicle launches, it's always a bit suspicious when an automaker spends more time hyping the drive route or lunch stops than they do the product.

Chevrolet seemed proud of the area roads and cuisine we'd encounter in the Carolinas when they invited AutoGuide.com down to Dixie for a test of their overhauled 2018 Equinox. There was no technical lecture or in-depth walkaround of the compact crossover; only a marketing spiel on the second day. But this apparent caginess was unnecessary as they have every right to be proud of the new Equinox.

This vehicle shed about 400 pounds from its predecessor, roughly a 10 per cent reduction. The body is nearly five inches shorter, but this change had no ill-effect on utility. Maximum cargo space has been increased by around 99 litres. With the back seats folded down there's just shy of 1,812 litres available.

The Equinox's interior bears a strong resemblance to what's found in other recent Chevrolets. Largely made of low-sheen hard plastic, it nonetheless looks quite nice. There are high-quality soft materials where you want them, like the armrests and upper portions of the dashboard. Front or rear, seat comfort is admirable.

The 1.5-litre engine pulls strongest around 3,500 RPM. Power is adequate, but never particularly enthusiastic. Climbing the Blue Ridge Mountains around Asheville, N.C. revealed that this crossover is a little taxed, moseying up the hills even at wide-open throttle. A full load would reduce vigor even more.

Still, on flatter terrain or lower elevations the performance provided is perfectly fine for a large swath of crossover customers. Buyers that want more giddy-up can always opt for the 2.0-litre engine.

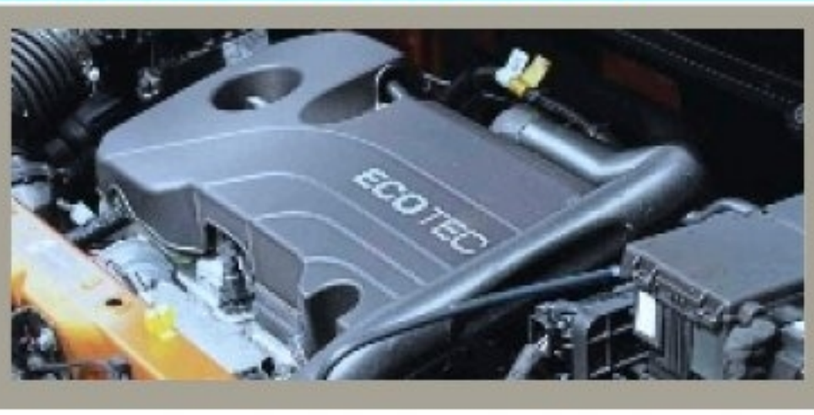
The steering is decently communicative but even with the optional lane-keep assist enabled the Equinox wanders, requiring constant correction to keep it within the lane markers.

The 2018 Equinox doesn't necessarily feel like a best-in-class crossover, but it's certainly one of the better offerings. Efficient and refined, spacious and tech savvy, there's no reason why it shouldn't give rivals a run for their money in an increasingly competitive segment.

THE CHECKLIST | 2018 CHEVROLET EQUINOX

THE BASICS

Engine: 1.5-liter turbo four-cylinder
Output: 170 horsepower, 203 pound-feet of torque
Transmission: 6-speed automatic
Fuel Economy (l/100 km): 9.0 city, 7.4 highway, 8.4 combined (est.)
Price: Starts at $26,995



LOVE IT

- Reasonable pricing
- Refined drivetrain
- Spacious interior
- Available diesel
- Fuel efficiency

LEAVE IT

- Not as spacious as a CR-V
- Seems to wander
- Could be quieter

3 GIMMICKY AUTOMOTIVE FEATURES

Cars today are packed with more features than ever before. While most were developed with good intentions, some end up being no more than an advertising line. You know the ones; these features attract an awful lot of attention and might seem great in theory, but never end up being truly useful in real life. On that note, here's a list, in no particular order, of some of the most gimmicky features on the market today. **DAN ILIKA/AUTOGUIDE.COM**

1 Rolls-Royce's fibre-optic headliner

As far as lighting systems go, the only thing more outlandish than Mercedes-Benz's Swarovski crystal headlights (don't even get us started) is this fibre-optic headliner offered by Rolls-Royce. Because buying a convertible to actually look at the stars is far too peasant-like, the automaker's bespoke division will gladly stitch you a headliner full of as many as 1,600 fiber-optic lights. And people say kids these days don't spend enough time outside.

2 Cadillac's rear camera mirror

Replacing a traditional rear view mirror with a camera display is a sign of the times. It's also a little too gimmicky for our liking. Cadillac claims this fancy digital display, which uses a rear-mounted camera to display a live look at what's behind the car, improves rearward vision by 300 percent compared to a traditional mirror. It's a great idea in theory, but we've tried using it before and just can't get used to it, so it ends up being pretty useless especially at night. Chalk this one up to the old if-it-ain't-broke adage.

3 Cabin perfume dispensers

Speaking of unpleasant odors, cruising around with an air freshener dangling from a rearview mirror is tacky, especially in a pricey premium vehicle. The solution, then, is to integrate fresh scents directly into the car's HVAC system. Mercedes-Benz and BMW have both done this, though it's hard to think of it as anything less than a neat trick to show off to friends. Just believe us when we tell you that the novelty will wear off quicker than the "energy of cool woodlands" scents brought on by BMW's Green Suite of smells.

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Ford finds way to lull babies to sleep

AUTO NEWS

Tesla reports record sales

Tesla continues to surprise with its sales figures despite reports of delays and other hiccups.

So far this year, Tesla has delivered 25,000 cars, a 69 per cent increase from the first quarter last year. Reuters reports this is a new quarterly record for the American electric car manufacturer.

Of the cars delivered in the first quarter of the year, Tesla said 13,450 were Model S sedans and 11,550 were the Model X. Tesla says it expected total deliveries to hit 47,000 to 50,000 by the middle of the year.

Last quarter, Tesla ran into production delays as it implemented new AutoPilot hardware, which resulted in fewer deliveries. The smaller and more affordable Model 3 sedan is expected to arrive later this year, but again, it wouldn't be surprising if it was also delayed. JODI LAI/AUTOGUIDE.COM

PARENTING

Ford rocking babies to sleep

One of the quickest ways to put a toddler to sleep is by driving them around in a car. But that isn't always convenient, which is why Ford has created a cot that simulates the motion, engine noise and even the street lighting of a nighttime drive, so parents can put their babies to bed from inside their home.

The Max Motor Dreams looks like a regular cot, but comes to life using a smartphone app. Users can also record and play back the comforting movement, lights and sounds of a particular trip. The Max Motor Dreams was supposed to be a one-off, but Ford is considering production after receiving numerous inquiries.

"While a quick drive in the family car can work wonders in getting baby off to sleep, the poor old parents still have to be awake and alert at the wheel," said Max Motor Dreams designer Alejandro López Bravo. JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM

LEGO

Build a McLaren

A second McLaren supercar has joined the ranks of the LEGO Speed Champions series. The McLaren 720S supercar will become available for everyone to enjoy in June, shortly after the actual 720S supercars are delivered to their owners.

The 720S joins the McLaren P1 in the ranks of supercars immortalized by LEGO. The new 720S LEGO kit is great for aspiring car designers, as it includes a mini designer, a design studio desk complete with coffee cup and original design sketch and a 3D-printed model car. STEPHEN ELMER/AUTOGUIDE.COM

ALL PHOTOS HANDOUTS

LYNK & CO

Concept leaked

Photos of the Lynk & Co 02 sedan have made an early appearance online.

Images were posted on Adamsky Management with credit to Fredrik Etoall for Lynk & Co. But Lynk & Co hasn't unveiled the concept, so it's possible that Etoall accidentally posted the pics early, previewing the wild concept sedan with rear suicide doors.

While we don't know much besides styling, it shows the versatility of Volvo's architecture as Lynk & Co is owned by the same Chinese company that bought the German automaker. JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM

metro SPORTS

Tampa Bay Lightning head coach Jon Cooper will be bench boss for Team Canada at the world hockey championship in Paris next month

Flames look to give Ducks fight

NHL PLAYOFFS

Anaheim eased past Calgary in 2015 but teams more even now

The Anaheim Ducks won the Pacific Division and the Calgary Flames got into the playoffs via a wild card, yet just one win separated the teams in the regular season.

Their best-of-seven Western Conference quarter-final series, starting Thursday in Anaheim, is less of a lopsided matchup than it was two years ago, when the Ducks eliminated Calgary in five games in the second round.

The Ducks (46-23-13) boast more players with playoff experience. But the Flames (45-33-4) aren't as green in the post-season as they were in 2015.

Anaheim remains a formidable opponent, however, and the stat that continues to haunt the Flames is their inability to win in the Honda Center.

Calgary hasn't won a regular-season game in Anaheim since 2004. The Flames are 1-4 there in the post-season with their lone victory in 2006.

"We've got to go in there believing we can win," Flames captain Mark Giordano said.

"The streak and all that is there. We're going to have to get games there to win a series."

Giordano is at the centre of animosity carrying over from an April 4 game in Anaheim. He collided with Ducks defenceman Cam Fowler in the third period, and Fowler did not return to the game.

Calgary's captain and defenceman Josh Manson fought in a penalty-filled third period.

> **We're going to have to get games there to win a series.**
>
> Mark Giordano on importance of breaking Anaheim curse.

Ducks GM Bob Murray said Fowler would be out four to six weeks and accused Giordano of intentionally targeting Fowler's knee. Flames GM Brad Treliving called Murray's comments "asinine."

Giordano and Calgary's poor record in Anaheim is sure to be fodder for the Ducks' faithful in Thursday's Game 1. They chanted "you can't win here" in last week's game.

Game 2 is Saturday followed by Games 3 and 4 in Calgary on Monday and next Wednesday respectively. The Ducks were 29-8-4 at home this season. Anaheim ranked first in the NHL in faceoffs won (54.7), second in hits (2,146) and tied for third with the Montreal Canadiens in fewest goals-against (200).

The Flames have come a long way from the team that went 4-5-1 in October. Since Nov 15, only Washington, Columbus and Minnesota had more wins than Calgary (40). An 8-2 record in March indicates Calgary is peaking at the right time.

"Playoffs are a different animal," head coach Randy Carlyle told reporters in Anaheim earlier this week.

"Everyone starts at zero. We're going to have to earn everything we get. I would expect Calgary is going to have a few surprises."

Calgary's post-season appearance two years ago was its first in six years and also marked the first time in 11 the Flames got beyond the first round.

It's rare when the Ducks don't make the playoffs. Ducks forwards Ryan Getzlaf and Corey Perry won a Stanley Cup in 2007.

After ousting Calgary in 2015, they and eight other current Ducks were eliminated in Game 7 of the conference final by the eventual Stanley Cup champion Chicago Blackhawks. The Ducks fell in seven games to the Nashville Predators in the first round in 2016.

"It's a deep team," Treliving said. "They're playoff battle tested. We know what we're up against.

"We know how good they are, but we've got to focus in on our individual game, our collective game and make sure we're bringing our best effort."

Where Calgary may have the edge is in goal. Brian Elliott, 32, took the St. Louis Blues to last year's conference final before he was acquired by the Flames in a trade. Anaheim's John Gibson, 23, has started six playoff games in his career to Elliott's 37. The Flames will lean heavily on Elliott in this series to advance.

"You just want to make the saves you should and a couple you shouldn't," Elliott said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SCHEDULE

Game 1 in Anaheim
Thursday, 8:30 p.m.
Game 2 in Anaheim
Saturday, 8:30 p.m.
Game 3 in Calgary
Monday, April 17, 8 p.m.
Game 4 in Calgary
Wednesday, April 19, 8 p.m.
Game 5 in Anaheim*
Friday, April 21, TBD
Game 6 in Calgary*
Sunday, April 23, TBD
Game 7 in Anaheim*
Tuesday, April 25, TBD
*IF NECESSARY

Johnny Gaudreau came on strong down the stretch to finish with 18 goals and 61 points to help the Flames secure a playoff spot. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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IN TURIN, ITALY JUVENTUS GO UP BIG ON BARÇA Paulo Dybala outshone his Argentine compatriot Lionel Messi by scoring twice to help Juventus beat Barcelona 3-0 in Leg 1 of their Champions League quarter-final on Tuesday. MIGUEL MEDINA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Dortmund hit in 'targeted attack'

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Defender hurt after German club's bus hit with explosives

Three explosions went off near the team bus of Borussia Dortmund, one of Germany's top soccer clubs, as it set off for a Champions League quarter-final match on Tuesday evening. Dortmund defender Marc Bartra was injured.

Police said they were working on the assumption that the blasts were directed at the Dortmund team and caused by "serious explosive devices."

The first-leg match against Monaco was called off and rescheduled for Wednesday.

A letter claiming responsibility was found near the blasts, prosecutor Sandra Luecke said but wouldn't reveal more about its contents.

Marc Bartra GETTY IMAGES

The case is being investigated as attempted homicide, Luecke said.

"We had to assume, and assumed right from the start, that this was a targeted attack against the team of Borussia Dortmund," Dortmund Police Chief Gregor Lange.

There were three explosions near the Dortmund bus as the team left the L'Arrivee Hotel and Spa on the outskirts of the western city of Dortmund for the stadium, around 10 kilometres away, police said.

"We're all shocked — nobody thought about a football match in the minutes after that."
Dortmund's Roman Buerki

A window on the bus was damaged and Spanish defender Bartra was injured. Club spokesman Sascha Fligge said Bartra was operated on late Tuesday for a broken bone in his right wrist and to remove "foreign objects" from his arm.

The team bus had just pulled out of the hotel driveway when an explosion — a "huge bang" — happened and sent glass flying, Dortmund goalkeeper Roman Buerki said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

1-6 start is Jays' worst ever

J.A. Happ did not have the start he had hoped to have in the Jays home opener. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Keon Broxton and Domingo Santana homered as the Milwaukee Brewers edged Toronto 4-3 Tuesday to spoil the Blue Jays' home opener and extend their early-season misery.

At 1-6, Toronto is off to its worst start ever.

The Jays have lost six straight home openers and seven of their last eight. The last win was against Minnesota in 2011.

Troy Tulowitzki drove in three runs for Toronto with two doubles — both on 0-2 counts — and a sacrifice fly. The Jays shortstop came into the game 3-of-24 but had six RBI.

Tulowitzki and Kendrys Morales accounted for all five of Toronto's hits.

TUESDAY In Toronto

4	3
BREWERS	BLUE JAYS

Jays starter J.A. Happ (2-0) was pulled in the fifth after a 102-pitch outing that yielded four runs, nine hits, eight strikeouts and more than a few hard hit balls.

The Toronto bullpen — Dominic Leone, Joe Smith, Joe Biagini, Jason Grilli and Roberto Osuna in his season debut after being sidelined by neck spasms — retired 13 of the next 16 Brewer batters.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Late enforcer Probert has ashes spread in Joe's sin bin

Late Red Wings enforcer Bob Probert has been given a little more time in the penalty box at Detroit's Joe Louis Arena.

Probert's widow, Dani, sprinkled some of the forward's ashes in the box on Sunday, when the Red Wings played their final game in the stadium.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No verdict in ex-NFL star Hernandez's murder trial

The jury in the double-murder trial of ex-NFLer Aaron Hernandez finished its third day of deliberations on Tuesday without a verdict.

Jurors have spent about 19 hours deliberating since Friday. Deliberations are scheduled to resume Wednesday. The former New England tight end is accused of shooting two men in 2012 after one of them accidentally spilled a drink on him at a Boston nightclub. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thunder top T-Wolves without Westbrook

Victor Oladipo scored 20 points and hit a jumper with 6.3 seconds to play to lift the Russell Westbrook-less Oklahoma City Thunder to a 100-98 win over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Tuesday night.

With Westbrook resting for the first time this season, Oladipo also had nine rebounds and six assists, and the Thunder outrebounded Minnesota 54-35. Starters Taj Gibson and Andre Roberson also sat out for the Thunder. Domantas Sabonis added 19 points and nine rebounds.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 26 points and 12 rebounds and Andrew Wiggins finished with 18 points for Minnesota.

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2016	CX5 SUV #B769357	Soul Red Mica	27,596 KMs	$28,199 +GST
2016	CX5 SUV #B800311	Soul Red Mica	28,343 KMs	$28,088 +GST

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Crunchy Asian Chicken Salad

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This salad's tender chicken and zippy dressing make it a great noon time meal, especially if it's a leftover dinner because then it was super easy too.

Ready in 22 minutes
Prep time: 10
Cook time: 12
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 2 chicken breasts
- 1/4 - 1/2 head of purple cabbage, thinly sliced
- 1/4 - 1/2 head of green cabbage, thinly sliced
- 2 carrots, shredded
- 1 red pepper, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cucumber, peeled and sliced
- 2 spring onions, sliced
- handful cilantro, chopped
- 1/3 cup peanuts, chopped (optional)

Dressing
- 1 Tbsp sesame oil
- 1 Tbsp soy sauce
- 1/2 tsp sriracha
- 1 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 tsp fish sauce
- 1 tsp sugar

Directions

1. Fill a skillet with water and season twith salt and peppe. Bring to a simmer. Place chicken breasts in water and cook 10 to 12 minutes, depending on how thick the breasts are. Remove and place on a clean plate. Use two forks to shred the chicken.

2. In a small bowl, whisk together dressing ingredients. In a large serving bowl, toss together vegetables and chicken. Drizzle dressing over salad and toss again.

3. Serve salad in bowls and garnish with cilantro and chopped peanuts.

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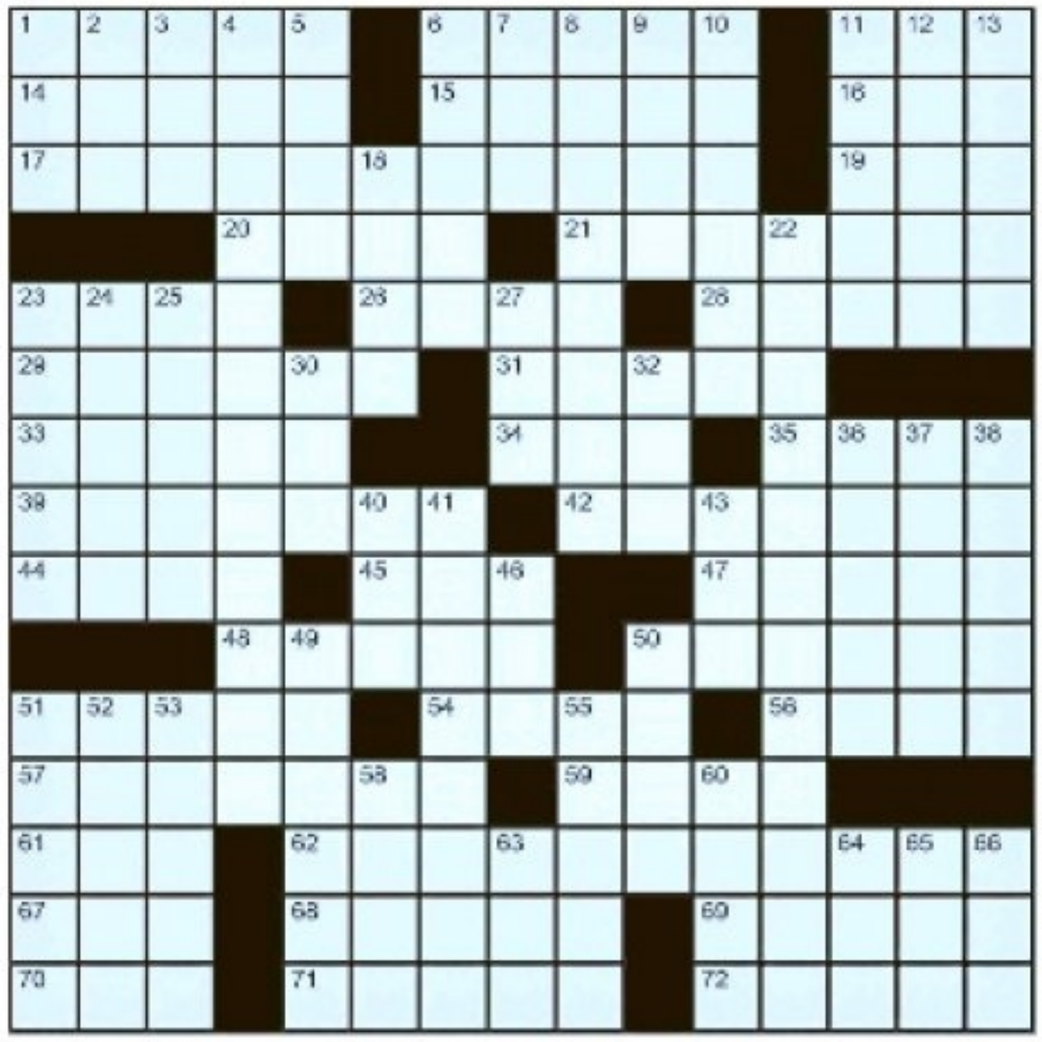
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. As such, Latin-style: 2 wds.
6. Harmonize
11. __-Jongg
14. Basketball great Shaquille
15. Cheerful
16. Expert
17. Entree at a Passover supper: 2 wds.
19. Bus or train, e.g.
20. Orderly
21. Toronto-born NHL head coach who is an Honoured Member of the Hockey Hall of Fame, Roger __ (b.1934 - d.2003)
23. House's li'l bottom
26. Cat's call
28. Cutlass __ (Former Oldsmobile model)
29. Not translucent
31. Last but not __
33. Maple serving
34. Father
35. Do this as Springtime snow
39. La Seigneurie de l'Ile d'__ (Botanical oasis in Quebec)
42. Painting like the real thing
44. Midday
45. Sport-__ (Versatile vehicle)
47. Leases
48. Pink Lady's date in "Grease" (1978)
50. Smitten: 2 wds.
51. Bing Crosby/Bob Hope comedy, "Road __ __" (1947)
54. 'Cont' completer (Italian noblewoman)
56. George Harrison's "__ It a Pity"
57. Eileen of "Private Benjamin" (1980)
59. Fe
61. French for 'goose'
62. Particular party in Springtime, such as at #4-Down: 2 wds.
67. Head motion for 'yes'
68. Cavern
69. Prefix to 'metre'
70. Nav. rank
71. "With this ring __ wed."
72. 'Delete' the pencil marks

DOWN
1. Disc in a 1990s fad game
2. 'Carot' completer
3. CFL official
4. New Brunswick town which is home to the Maple Capital of Atlantic Canada Festival, this year from April 11th to April 16th
5. Vogue competitor
6. Mountain ridge
7. File image type
8. London Fog togs
9. Massachusetts' motto starter
10. Morals
11. En __ (All together)
12. Donald Sutherland's profession
13. Reddish-brown hair rinse
18. Gentle
22. Pinky: 2 wds.
23. Higgs __, 'The God Particle'
24. __ the Dragon (Video game)
25. "That Girl" star Ms. Thomas
27. Antiquated
30. Kick __ __ fuss
32. Fruity drink
36. Clues
37. Ontario community
38. "Hmmm, I __ aware of that."
40. Rapa __ (Easter Island)
41. Power
43. Quid __ quo
46. Mr. McMahon's
49. Ornamental tree
50. Draped dress
51. Bluegrass musician, __ __ Burnett
52. The Hunter constellation
53. Props for clarinets
55. "Yes, __, Bob!" (For sure!)
58. Family tree member
60. Erstwhile
63. Queen's "We __ the Champions"
64. "Bird __ __ Wire" (1990)
65. Military posts, e.g.
66. "Yuck!"

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
This is a good day for important discussions about wills, inheritances, shared property and insurance issues. All parties involved will be reasonable and mutually sympathetic.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You might be able to mend broken fences with a partner or close friend today, because people feel sympathetic toward each other. It's a relatively easygoing day.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Co-workers are supportive today, especially in your efforts to get better organized. You might feel particularly tenderhearted toward a pet today.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
If you are involved in a creative project or the arts, you will be productive today because you are imaginative and open to new ideas. You also will feel sympathetic toward children.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You will enjoy cocooning at home today, because you feel the need to pamper yourself and take it easy. Family discussions will be gentle and sympathetic.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Your imagination is heightened today, which is good news for those of you who act, teach, write, sell and market. Trust your far-out ideas.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
If shopping today, you will be tempted to spend too much money on luxurious items. It's the age-old problem of having champagne tastes on a beer wallet.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Today the Moon is in your sign dancing with Neptune, which makes you sensitive to the needs of others. It also heightens your imagination.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You will find it easy to put the needs of others before your own today, because you feel somewhat selfless. You genuinely want to help anyone who is less fortunate. (This is admirable.)

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
A discussion with a female friend will be idealistic today. It also will be a bonding experience, because each of you will listen with sympathy toward the other person.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
People see you in a favorable light today, especially bosses, parents and VIPs. They see you as someone who is reasonable, sympathetic and kind.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Do whatever you can to get away from all this because you need to escape. You need fresh air and a chance to discover adventure! Travel somewhere, if possible.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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			7		1	2		8
				2			3	
6		7			9			
							8	4

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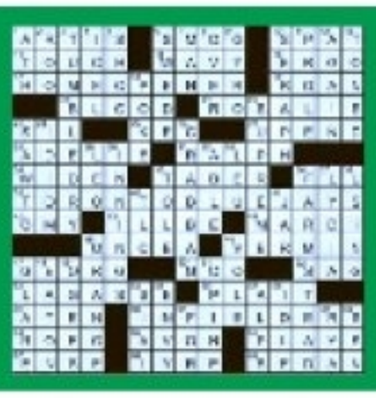

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7	2	1	3	4	6	8	9	5

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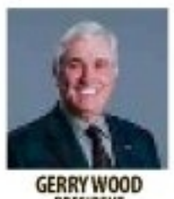

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WESTCREEK DEVELOPMENTS

Couple drawn in by unique architecture, slower pace

Miles Durrie

Many Calgarians think of their city as a fast-paced urban metropolis with busy rush-hour traffic and high home prices. Not so much, says Gabriel Marion with a laugh.

Marion, a semi-retired certified fraud investigator and former plainclothes RCMP officer, moved here in 2016 from the Toronto area with his wife, Geraldine, an Air Canada flight attendant.

"Toronto has a hectic pace — what people call heavy traffic in Calgary is like Sunday morning there," Marion says. "We wanted to slow down a touch."

The couple's son and daughter-in-law were already in Calgary, having settled in WestCreek Developments' award-winning southeast community of Legacy.

"We flew here a couple of times and just fell in love with Legacy," he says. "The architecture in Legacy is unique, really nice compared to the cookie-cutter homes you see in some developments and in other cities."

Resolving to make the move, the Marions began looking at homes in Legacy.

"We decided we would start with a brand new home. We looked maybe at one or two models, but as soon as we saw this one we said 'this is it.'"

The home that captured their hearts was the 2,231 sq. ft. Woodhaven model by WestCreek Homes. "We're like that — when we see something we like, we buy it. WestCreek made the process easy."

For a company best known as a developer, WestCreek has jumped into building in a big way over the last three years, says the company's marketing manager, Kalida Goldade. WestCreek offers six different home models in Legacy.

"This is really our first foray into home building," she says. And it's been a successful one. The company is currently looking at expanding into other communities as a builder.

For the Marions, the two-storey, three-bedroom home with front-drive double garage, offered everything they were looking for, and more.

"We liked the flow — it's very well laid out," Marion says, noting the open kitchen-dining-living area and adding that the nine-foot ceilings, wide hallways upstairs and high-quality built-in cabinetry were all attractive features.

> **We flew here a couple times and just fell in love with Legacy.**
> Gabriel Marion

Add in the home's stunning lot location overlooking the larger of two picturesque water features (affectionately referred to as "big pond" and "little pond") and it was impossible to resist.

Marion, who has travelled extensively around the world, is also enthusiastic about what he calls Calgary's slower pace and relaxed, friendly attitude, and thinks other eastern Canadians should give it a look.

"I think a lot of people out east don't know about this place called Calgary. There's so much opportunity here. More of them should come and experience Calgary, not just for a visit during Stampede, but for living. Moving here is an opportunity for a relaxing retirement. And the cost of living is very reasonable."

Gabriel Marion fell in love with a two-storey, three-bedroom Woodhaven home. CONTRIBUTED

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Lie back and relax in your bedroom

Of all the rooms in the home, the bedroom is the most personal. It should be your restful oasis away from the stresses of the world, where you read books propped up on pillows, unwind, engage in your most intimate moments and catch 40 winks each night, hopefully in comfortable slumber. Here are five essentials to help make your bedroom dreamy

Karen Durrie

Inspired look

What's a bed without a nest of throw cushions? They add interest and comfort, and pops of colour to the room. Plus, they're an easy and economical way to switch up the look of your decor. If you like a unique, international flair, check out the hand-crafted throw pillows at Ten Thousand Villages, made by craftspeople from around the world, including India, Vietnam, Nepal and West Bengal. You can feel good about your purchase, too, as Ten Thousand Villages carries only fair-trade items made from around the developing world. Check out this whimsical birds-and-flowers cushion made by women in rural Kathmandu Valley of Nepal using recycled fabric and hand-stitched embroidery. $45.

Perfect backdrop

The bed is the biggest piece of furniture in your bedroom, so you'll want to showcase it with a great frame or headboard. There are hundreds of style options, from traditional to contemporary. Check out this open-frame headboard that cuts some cool diagonal lines against your painted walls. Solid wood, painted black, the Bowne headboard by Varick Gallery fits full and queen-sized bed frames. $278.99 on Wayfair.ca.

Warm your toes

Nobody likes it when warm feet hit a cold floor, so add flair to your bedroom decor with a great area rug. Gray is one of the trendiest paint and home decor colours going right now, and damask is a hot-selling design pattern. Combine the two and you've got the Balta Medallion area rug from Lowes, with a big, bold print in cream and black on a gray background. The rug is a treat for the feet with high-density, soft pile and latex backing. Comes in two sizes, starting at $129.

Bed-in-the-box

Boxed mattresses are the hottest new mattress product, with Youtube chock-full of "unboxing" videos and mattress reviews of these one-size-fits-all foam mattresses you order online and have shipped to your home. Casper is one of the biggest names in the bed-in-the-box game, nabbing one of Time Magazine's bests inventions of 2015 awards. The Casper combines layers of different foams, including memory foam, and a breathable top layer, to create a comfortable, balanced sleep surface. Order online at casper.ca. Mattresses range from $725 for a twin to $1,275 for a king.

Sleep soundly

Shh. Nothing disrupts sleep more than noise and light. Solution? Heavy light and sound-blocking curtains. These also have the advantage of helping control a room's temperature, reducing heat transfer. Consider these blackout grommet curtain panels from Bed Bath and Beyond featuring double-sided, triple-woven heavyweight jacquard fabric. Panels come in seven colours, and range from 54 to 95 inches wide, for $24.99 each.

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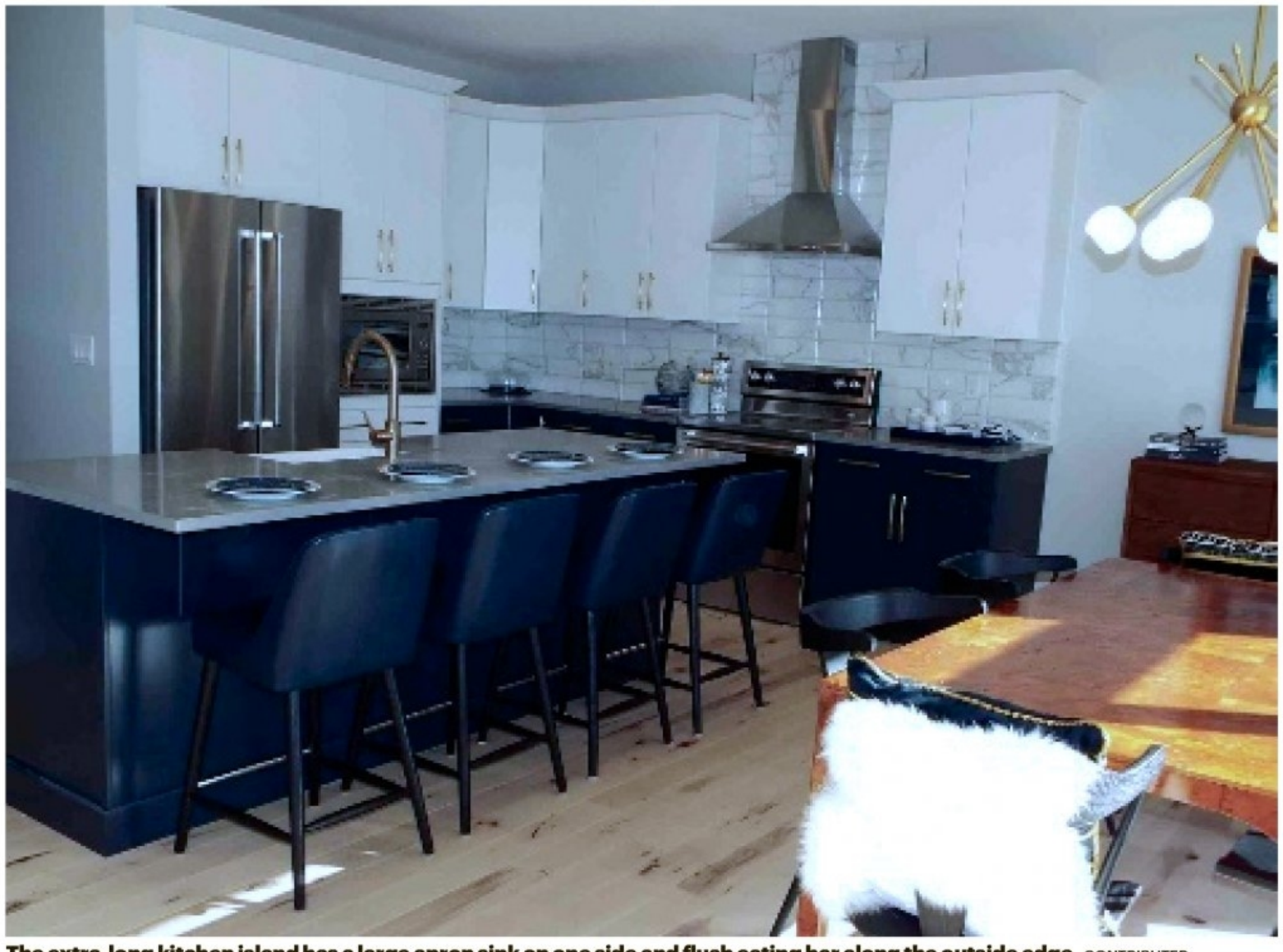
Kathy McCormick

When practical living comes with a dynamic presence, it's a powerful thing — and that's what Morrison Homes brings with its latest show home.

The Verona is 2,674 square feet of drama wrapped up in a package that provides all the comforts of home and then some. It's located in the all-new The Ridge at Sage Meadows, where the lot sits on part of a hill facing west with unobstructed views and a pond out back.

Right from the entrance, prepare to be 'wowed.' The wide-plank, whitewashed, knotty hardwood leads into the home where, ahead, the whole floor opens to the full bar room below. A gigantic and spectacular chandelier hangs over the space that's outlined with glass under railings for dramatic effect, and then you can see clear through to the almost wall-to-wall windows along the living and dining rooms at the back of the home which look out to the scenic views below.

The glass-under-rail extends to the stairs leading both up and downstairs to the left of the foyer. A quartz counter tops a long cupboard on the left side, anchoring the kitchen beyond and separating the open space below from the living area. There's even an open cupboard at 'dog' level with cut-outs to fit the dog dishes — out of the way, but close by at the same time. A large walk-in pantry is adjacent.



The extra-long kitchen island has a large apron sink on one side and flush eating bar along the outside edge. CONTRIBUTED

The half bath, garage entrance with a built-in locker style bench and hooks and large walk-in closet are to the left as well.

The full half of the back of the home is dedicated to the main living areas, the kitchen, dining room and living room — all bathed in light from the ample windows. The balcony, accessed from the dining room, goes the full length of these rooms.

The kitchen is L-shaped with an abundance of cupboards, the top ones flat-panelled white, the bottom, charcoal grey and the countertops a lighter grey. Large tiles, resembling subway tiles with a marble vein, form the backsplash and go up to the ceiling under the stainless steel hood fan over the upscale appliances.

The extra-long island has a large apron sink on one side and a flush eating bar along the outside edge.

The great room has a fireplace centred on one wall with shelves on each side.

Upstairs, the grand master suite is at one end and two additional bedrooms at the other, with a good-sized bonus room providing separation and privacy. The two bedrooms have a full bath/shower combination bathroom between them.

Off the bonus room, a small room is set up as a hobby room and a substantial laundry room has a walk-in closet and built-in shelves for storage.

The oversized master suite is accessed through double doors and leads to the ensuite with a large soaker tub and built-in glass shower on one side and double sinks in the long vanity along the other side.

Downstairs, the open bar has one wall of cupboards, including sink, dishwasher and wine fridge, and enough room for several small tables, perfect for an open games room. The rest of the room is spacious and inviting. A full bathroom and ample storage finish off the area.

IN SHORT

Builder: Morrison Homes
Developer: Genesis Development
Area: The Ridge at Sage Meadows
Model: The Verona
Price: From $852,000 with GST
Directions: Take Symons Valley Road north of Stoney Trail to Symons Valley Parkway NW (128 Ave.), turn right, and then left at Sage Meadows Green.
Hours: Open from 2 to 8 p.m., Monday to Thursday and noon to 5 p.m. weekends and holidays.

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UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Mixed-use community to help district become an urban village

Kathy McCormick

West Campus Development Trust is introducing a unique neighbourhood that will include multi-family homes for all demographic groups, retail space, office space, and plenty of open space. CONTRIBUTED

For years, the land near the University of Calgary campus sat empty atop a hill with unobstructed views of the mountains, the Bow River below and the city centre from various vantage points — until now.

West Campus Development Trust now has the makings of a vibrant, unique neighbourhood that has been planned to include more than 6,000 multi-family homes for all demographic groups.

The mixed-use community will have a 300,000 square feet of retail space spanning nine blocks, 1.5 million square feet of office space and more than a dozen hectares of open space.

Look for a 'main' or 'high' street that will help University District become a true urban village with 12 kilometres of walkways, bike paths and regional pathways, as well as 16 hectares of playgrounds, parks, wetlands, and other green space. A 1.21-hectare central park is also located along high street.

The complete, sustainable design is deliberate and blends well with the surrounding area's major hubs of activity, says James Robertson, president and CEO of West Campus Development Trust. "People won't be dependent on vehicles to find the amenities they need. Everything is close by, from groceries to other shops, and, for many residents, their jobs."

University District is in the middle of Calgary's second largest employment centre outside downtown with the University of Calgary, Foothills Medical Centre, the Alberta Children's Hospital, Tom Baker Cancer Centre, Market Mall, McMahon Stadium, and the Olympic Oval within three kilometres of the community.

> **Our goal from the very beginning was to create a sustainable and vibrant community that residents felt proud of**
>
> James Robertson, president and CEO of West Campus Development Trust

Sustainable design is a priority. University District will be the Largest Leadership In Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for Neighbourhood Development (LEED-ND) project (81 hectares) in Canadian history to earn Platinum certification.

"Our goal from the very beginning was to create a sustainable and vibrant community that residents felt proud of and the surrounding communities supported," Robertson says. "We scrutinized every detail of the community in the planning stages to be certain that we were creating a legacy community that would change the way communities in Calgary, and the rest of the country, were built in the future."

The housing in the first phase of development will be two multi-family projects — Ivy by Brookfield Residential and Noble by Truman Homes.

Both have set up in the new Discovery Centre, a showcase telling the story of University District. The two builders each have 1,000 square feet to showcase their projects. In addition, a large-scale interactive model provides Calgarians with additional information about future development plans. It's open from 2 to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and noon to 5 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

"The public's reaction has been positive and supportive," Robertson says. "Calgarians are excited to be a part of an innovative, forward-thinking development."

The recent grand opening of the Discovery Centre was met with "an overwhelming response," he says, adding that "sales for both developments are going exceptionally well, and we expect to welcome our first residents by late 2018."

The Ivy is the townhome cluster by Brookfield Residential with units from 1,185 square feet to 1,979 square feet and prices from $466,900 (plus GST). A central courtyard will have a play area, community garden and green space.

For Truman Homes, the Noble will have a variety of homes, from apartment-styled condos starting at 500 square feet, to brownstone condo and sky towns up to 2,500 square feet.

Both builders have show suites in the Discovery Centre.

For more information visit myuniversitydistrict.ca.

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Builders 'deliver on promises'

ACHIEVEMENT

Customers selected this year's H.O.M.E. award winners

Kathy McCormick

Calgary builders took nine awards in the 2017 Home Owner Mark of Excellence (H.O.M.E.) Awards recently, with three categories a dead heat.

The awards rate builders on their customers' experience throughout the home building process right up to 13 months past possession.

"H.O.M.E. is a difficult achievement for companies because the only judge in these awards is the voice of the customer, trades and internal employees," says Christian Caswell, president and CEO of CustomerInsight.

"Builders must deliver on their promises, and follow through on one-year obligations to the customer. It is extremely hard to win because it is based on the builder fulfilling promises in terms of quality, workmanship, home readiness, and customer service through and past a full year of the customer living in their home.

"What other purchase do we make in our lives where the company we purchased from maintains communication, care and service for another year after? I can't think of many."

And because the homeowners themselves judge the builders, it is one of the most coveted awards to win, say the winners.

"Homes by Avi was founded on the guiding principle of customer satisfaction," says Alice Mateyko, president of Homes by Avi, Alberta (single-family division), which took two awards, including the Builder of Choice. "We owe thanks to our employees, trades and customers for awarding us with this special honour."

Tied for Builder of Choice, Cedarglen Homes was also awarded one other category for the second consecutive year. "For our homebuyers, it means that we have proven to be able to systematically and consistently deliver," says president Howard Tse. "It is a great testament to the commitment that our team makes to delivering that great homebuyer experience."

It's the third win for Cardel Lifestyles and it, too, is a great accomplishment, says Brayden Logel, director of sales, marketing and customer experience. "It is very important to us as it is based solely on customer feedback and encompasses an evaluation of the entire process.

"We have one overarching rule when it comes to helping our customers — and that is to treat our customers as we would like to be treated."

FULL LIST OF WINNERS

Best Customer Experience
Calgary and Area (Multi-Family)
•5-115 units — Morrison Homes (Sonoma); 116+ units - Cardel Lifestyles

Calgary and Area (Single Family)
•5-100 homes — Lupi Homes
•101-249 homes — Broadview Homes and Cedarglen Homes
•250+ homes — Homes by Avi and Sterling Homes

Builder of Choice
Calgary and Area — Cedarglen Homes and Homes by Avi (Calgary)

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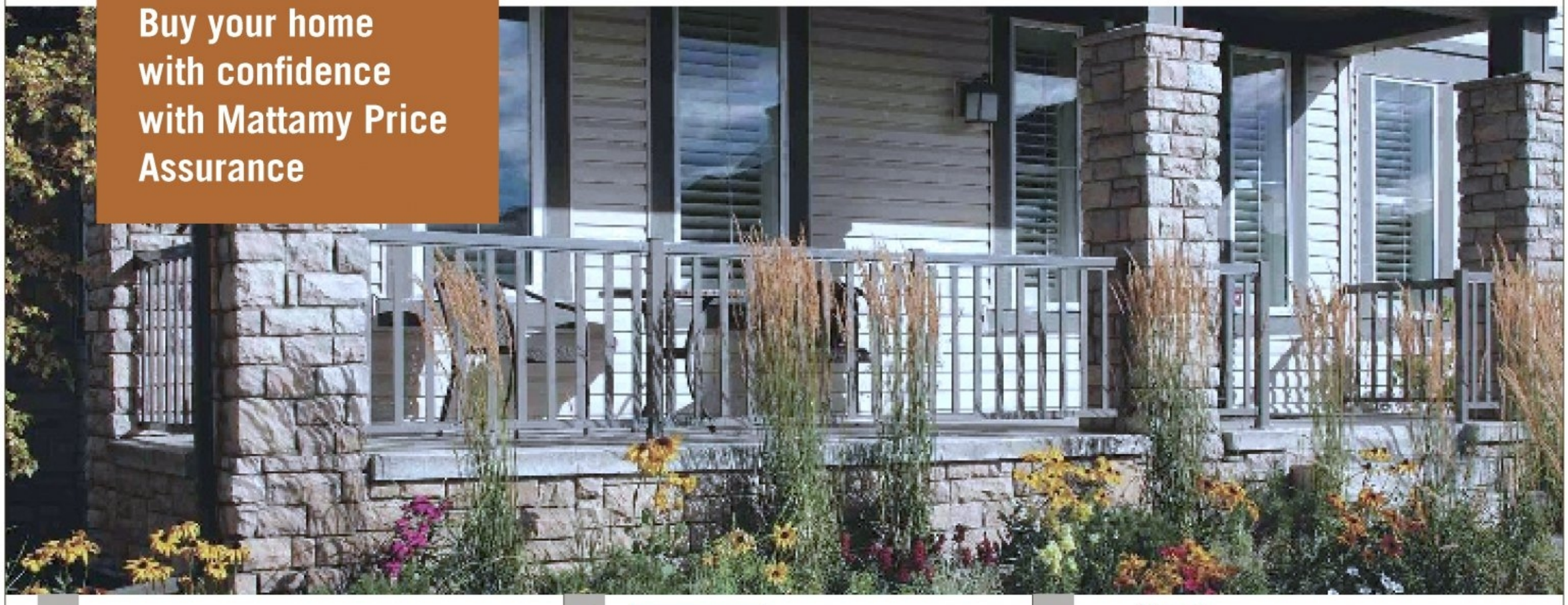

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